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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

Three Dead, Scores Wounded Gunmen Slaughter Hebron Students

Three Palestinians were killed and 38 injured when four masked men infiltrated the campus of Hebron's Islamic University, July 26, throwing grenades and firing indiscriminately into crowds of students. Later the city was curfewed and the campus surrounded.

The violence started at five minutes to noon as some students were walking through the main entrance for a recess and others were upstairs on the second and third floors completing examinations. The men, their faces covered with *kafiyas*, entered the university compound and made for the main entrance. They apparently shot dead two teachers who were sitting near the entrance. They then threw two grenades into the lobby and the student council offices located opposite.

Pandemonium broke out, according to university officials, students and one foreign visitor who was on campus at the time, as students threw themselves to the floor. The attackers, who were armed with automatic rifles, shot indiscriminately through the open-walled first floor before backing out of the building and shooting up the facade and through upper-storey windows.

The attack lasted between five and 10 minutes and panicking students threw themselves out of second and third floor windows at the rear of the building attempting to get away from the bullets. The attackers escaped in a white car with Israeli (yellow) licence plates. No eyewitness claimed to have heard the attackers speaking.

Sa'ad al-Din Sabri and his brother-in-law Jamal Nazzal, both 39, died instantly. The two men are residents of Qalqiliya and were at Hebron for a refresher course for teachers. A

third student, Samih Fathi Amour, 26, from Ya'abad, near Jenin, died later of his wounds at Hebron's Alia hospital.

There were tearful scenes outside Hebron's Alia Hospital, the only hospital in the area, which took the bulk of the wounded. Relatives and students gathered to hear news of the injured and others to donate blood. Soldiers arrived and dispersed crowds at the gate of the hospital with tear gas. One bomb flew through the window of a nearby house. Mustafa Natshe, Hebron's acting-mayor, sacked two weeks ago by the military authorities, was personally forbidden to visit the wounded and was ordered away from the hospital by a military officer. Twenty-eight casualties were registered at Alia. One youth who lost an eye was taken to the French Hospital in Beit Jala and eight others were admitted to the Hussein Hospital, also in Beit Jala.

As the wounded were being ferried to hospitals, roadblocks were set up in the city and outside nearby Halhoul to stop journalists getting to the area. Settlers and residents of Hebron were allowed to pass and traffic out of the stricken city was permitted.

Israeli troop reinforcements were ferried into Hebron by helicopter and according to official army statements, a full-scale search was underway for the perpetrators of the attack. A curfew was declared on the whole of Hebron. Life went on as normal in nearby Kiryat Arba settlement.

The army has not laid the blame for the attack on any individuals or group. An official communique stated "the perpetrator will be punished whether they are Arabs or Jews."

"But Hebron Arabs interviewed in the local and foreign news media remain convinced that the masked men who burst into the college on Tuesday afternoon were Jews, acting to avenge the killing two weeks ago of Aharon Gross, the yeshiva student slain near the Hebron bus station." (The Jerusalem Post, July 28)

Leader of the extreme right-wing Kach movement Rabbi Meir Kahane issued a statement denying his organisation had anything to do with the killing but refusing to condemn it. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, he said "we shall not condemn Jews who take up arms to get revenge for the shedding of Jewish blood." He called for the "removal of all Arabs from the country."

Mohammad Ja'aban, head of the university board of trustees who was in the hallway during the attack but escaped injury, told *Israel Radio*, July 27, that he called the military immediately after the shooting stopped but "no one came until an hour later." A foreign visitor on campus at the time said the university called the police while the attack was in progress.

The Hebron assault is the latest in a long list of unsolved attacks on Palestinians. Prominent West Bankers are citing the case of the bomb attacks on the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh, unsolved now since 1980, and the long list of recent attacks against Palestinians and their property in the Hebron region as evidence to support the thesis that no culprits will be found in this case either.

There are two teams investigating the attacks. The police have appointed the head of the Naqab investigation division to head one probe and the Shin Beth have their own team on the job. Neither had announced any success in the days immediately following the attack. The officer leading the investigation into the death of Emil Greenzweig, a Peace Now demonstrator who died in February after a grenade was thrown at demonstrators outside the prime minister's office, has also visited Hebron to check if the grenades used in both assaults were similar.



Injured students from Hebron's Islamic University lying in Alia Hospital, Hebron. Walid Abd al-Razek (top), secretary of the university's student council, lay on a stretcher outside the operating room for two and a half hours. He had a bullet in his left hand and was receiving blood from a catheter pinned on the hospital bulletin board. Friends of the Patients Society in Hebron applied for a licence to build a second hospital four years ago, with no reply from the authorities. /AD

Settler Kills Bride-to-be

NABLUS - Iham Ibrahim Abu Zarour, 20, was shot and killed in the afternoon of July 26 as she was carrying out last minute shopping for her wedding due to take place July 31.

The young bride-to-be and her cousin Miriam, who was also shot but survived, were walking out of a store in Nablus' main circle when settlers started firing their hand guns in response to some stoning by Nablus youths. The youths, who were protesting the shooting in Hebron's Islamic University, escaped into the

crowds. Iham died shortly afterwards and her cousin was wounded.

Israel Radio reported, July 27, that Dr Jihad 'Awnallah, who operated on young Iham and extracted the bullet from her body before she died, was arrested by the Israeli authorities and charged with 'attempting to conceal evidence.' The Radio said that when the Israeli authorities reached Nablus' Rafidia Hospital, they found the bullet in the surgeon's coat pocket. (Translation: Al Fajr, July 28).

(see wedding invitation p.3)

In This Issue

Israeli occupation of Lebanon continues	p.2
West Bank protests Hebron massacre	p.3
Newspapers grabbed and released	p.4
Coexistence?	p.6
Who Dismissed Natshe	p.7
NATO in the Middle East	pp.8&9
Abu Ghosh	p.10
Comrade Veronica / a short story by Ibrahim Dakkak	p.11
British Conservatives in Palestine	p.13

Upsurge in Fatah Fighting

Fourteen were killed and 25 injured in three days of clashes between PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's supporters and the opposition fighters within his Fatah movement.

The fighting broke out July 24, shattering a three-week cease-fire between the two streams and threatening the intensified diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict within Fatah. An Arafat loyalist reported, July 26, that a cease-fire has been agreed on in the Chtoura region after two days of intensified fighting. Palestinian and Lebanese residents in the area, news agencies reported, held public demonstrations demanding an end to the fighting.

The source reported that the dissidents initiated an attack on the For Zol-Kufr Zahab front, northeast of Zahleh, the capital of Beqa'a, and three of the opposition's fighters were killed. The clashes were intensified also in the sector of Saadnayel-Jadita, Taalbaya, north of Chtoura. There were reports that heavy weapons were used in the attacks.

Among the efforts to solve the conflicts, Khaled Fahoum, the head of the special PLO executive committee negotiating with the rebels, sent summonses to the 80 members of the Central Council for a meeting July 30. The opposition movement welcomed the convening of the council.

Fighting renewed July 25. The Lebanese daily, *Al Nahar* reported that the fighting during the past three days killed 12 persons and injured 30. Reports

from the Beqa'a said that the fighters of Abu Musa succeeded, on the evening of July 24, in controlling Jadita, three kilometres from Chtoura. During the day, July 24, fighters of Abu Musa took over Saadnayel city, six kilometres from Chtoura.

Shops were closed on the Damascus-Beirut road and traffic on the road was slowed. Residents of front-line villages left their houses. Reports affirmed that the opposition fighters aim at besieging Chtoura.

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee mediation team resumed its efforts, July 25, after the return of PNC Chairman Khaled Fahoum from the Soviet Union. The members of the committee contacted the Syrian foreign minister Abd al-Halim Khadim.

Three US-based Palestinians, members of the Palestine National Council, Ibrahim Abu Lughod, Edward Said, and Zuhdi Tarazi, issued a call, July 24, for the convention of the PNC in Algeria to discuss the situation in Beqa'a.

The joint leadership of the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) rejected, July 26, the call for an emergency PNC and demanded the application of last February's PNC decisions. The two organisations appealed to the fighters to stop fighting immediately and condemned the use of weapons to solve the conflict in Fatah. The two fronts also demanded an immediate cessation of the campaign of vilification in the media.

COUNTER-GOVERNMENT SET UP IN LEBANON

Three Lebanese leaders, Walid Jumblatt, the head of the Progressive Socialist Party, Rashid Karami, the former prime minister, and Suleiman Franjeh, an ex-president, announced, July 23, the formation of a "National Lebanese Salvation Front" to oppose the Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's US-sponsored agreement with Israel and what they called the *de facto* partition of Lebanon.

The front includes local committees, a general national council and executive forums capable of running the economic, information, military and social affairs in all parts of Lebanon.

In a statement which was issued in Baalbek, east Lebanon, Walid Jumblatt said that the front controls the north and east of Lebanon and that committees will be formed in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Jumblatt made his announcement of the establishment of a parallel government at a press conference in Baalbek. He read the national charter to gen-

eral secretaries of Lebanese progressive parties and other leading political figures. It was attended by the press.

After the conference, Walid Jumblatt met Franjeh and Karami in Eshen Palace, at a north Lebanon mountain resort. Franjeh and Karami both announced their membership in and support for the Front.

Nabeh Berri, head of the Shi'ite Amal organisation, also announced his support for the Front. The Shi'ite leader said he considers Jumblatt an ally to prevent the partition of Lebanon. Berri denounced the policy of the Gemayel government and called for Prime Minister Shafiq Wazzan to resign.

The Front's charter calls for opposition to the domination of the Phalangists in Lebanon "who work under the American umbrella" and called for reinforcing the steadfastness of the dominated national regions in Lebanon militarily, politically and economically.



Israeli authorities plan to turn the Ibrahim Mosque forecourt into the site for a "new" bus station

Fourteen Israelis Injured in Lebanon

At least 14 soldiers were injured in several attacks, July 22 to 28, as military operations against the Israeli occupation army in Lebanon continued. Fighting between Lebanese factions also continued, killing at least 25 people, as Lebanese national forces announced their commitment to confront the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

An Israeli soldier died, July 24, from wounds received one week earlier in an attack in Ain Arroub.

Israeli forces suffered their heaviest casualties this week on July 22, when a remote-controlled bomb exploded in Aley as a foot patrol passed. The Israeli military spokesman who announced the operation said troops closed off the nearby Beirut-Damascus highway and carried out a house-to-house search.

Three border patrolmen were wounded in an explosion which occurred north of Sidon, July 26. Israeli military sources claimed that the injuries were light and did not require hospitalisation. Nevertheless, a massive search for the people who planted the bomb was undertaken. *Agence France Presse* reported that the city of Sidon, which is the centre of frequent military attacks, has been declared a mil-

itary area and that photography has been forbidden. The Israeli authorities' measure coincides with their establishment of new fortifications in the hills overlooking the city. These are believed to be in preparation for the pullback to the Awali River, just north of the city, which is expected to be completed before the winter.

There were several other attacks which the Israeli authorities said did not cause any casualties. An RPG rocket was fired at the Israeli military headquarters in Sidon, July 25, and a similar attack was carried out on an Israeli position in the city, July 27.

On July 23, Lebanese National Resistance Forces also blew up the Arabic and English language Voice of Hope TV station, which serves the Israeli-backed Lebanese militia leader Sa'ad Haddad. Foreign correspondents reporting on the incident said that a 50-kilogramme bomb placed in a Mercedes sedan exploded, destroying the TV broadcasting station, which is near the border with the Golan Heights. The force of the explosion blew cars into the air. Many cars were set alight.

According to some reports, the militia leader was scheduled to broadcast a speech that even-

ing. The TV station, which was established after the Israeli invasion of 1978, is financed and run by a US evangelical group.

In the Beqa'a valley, where the situation has been relatively calm for the past few weeks, Syrian anti-aircraft batteries shot down an Israeli drone which was making a reconnaissance flight over their Syrian positions, July 21. A Syrian military spokesman who announced the incident said that the plane fell in the area of Bar Elias. Earlier, the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio station reported that the Syrians fired a SAM-6 missile at an Israeli plane flying over Syrian troops. The missile missed its target, the report said. An Israeli military spokesman acknowledged that the Syrians fired at the Israeli plane, but denied a drone was downed.

In the Shouf mountains, fighting continued between the Israeli-backed Phalangist forces, where both sides made extensive use of heavy artillery and rockets. The heaviest clashes occurred on July 22. At least 23 people were killed and some 65 wounded. Rockets fell on the Beirut International Airport, which is under the control of the US contingent of the multi-national forces. Later reports said that two US Marines were lightly injured. Fighting died off slowly as the week progressed.

WAR CEMETERY TIDIED IN PUBLICITY WAKE

The graveyard for Arab victims of recent Israeli wars, revealed at a press conference last week, has been cleared of undergrowth and 49 mounds demarcated, 44 of them marked with short iron posts.

The Banat Yacoub site, said by Israeli military spokesmen to contain 42 graves for about 44 dead (some bodies were blown to bits and interned together), was cleared of tall weeds and thistles, July 20. The old barbed-wire fence was moved in a few metres and replaced with a two-metre chain link fence. All the vegetation around the site was also razed.

Tyre marks in and around the site point to jeeps being used in the clearance work. A tem-

porary heliport near the graveyard has been cleared of used flares.

Inside the graveyard are five rows of small mounds: one contains 11, one four, and one five post-marked plots each, separated by rows of rocks. Two longer rows contain 10 and 14 similar plots. Each of these rows contains a single un-posted mound. Next to one line are three mounds with neither posts nor rocks. Beside each line is a single taller post. Two high posts there are before the clean-up are still visible.

A row of three similar plots and a pile of new stakes lies in a centre of the cemetery. According to Tamara Kohns, the US freelance journalist who dis-

covered the site, the position of some of the mounds does not coincide with places where she saw graves earlier. One grave, which had a foot coming out of it, last week, is now not visible at all.

After its existence was made public at a July 19 press conference, the Israeli army spokesman announced the site contains the bodies of Syrian soldiers from the 1967 and '73 wars and 20 Syrians and 24 others from this war. A senior source said there are "less than 80 graves at the site."

The cemetery is now clearly visible from the main road and to day-trippers using it as a short cut to a nearby swimming place on the Jordan.

WEST BANK SHUTS DOWN, PROTESTS HEBRON MASSACRE

Five Bir Zeit University students were injured, four from soldiers' gunfire, during confrontations on the campus, July 27. The clashes occurred as students protested the armed attack on Hebron University, one day earlier, where three students were killed and 38 others wounded.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, total commercial strikes prevailed in Jerusalem, Nablus and Qalqilya, while shops were forced open in Ramallah.

Nearly 600 students who are enrolled in the summer courses at BZU took part in a protest march which was organised outside the campus to condemn the previous day's attack on Hebron. Earlier, many students blocked off the streets leading to the university quarters with large stones, in order to

prevent Israeli troops from disrupting the march.

Radio Isreal reported that the Israeli army used tear gas and live ammunition to disperse the students and later surrounded the campus for several hours. Dozens of students were arrested in the evening.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops in all West Bank cities were on full alert, as more troop reinforcements patrolled the streets.

On the evening of the attack, national institutions issued a statement calling for a two-day strike to be observed by all residents.

In Jerusalem, the commercial strike was disrupted as Bethlehem University students struck, in protest of the shooting

at Hebron University. Israeli troops beefed up their presence in Dheisheh refugee camp, outside Bethlehem, apparently in order to prevent the occurrence of demonstrations. Meanwhile, delegations from the refugee camp visited the wounded in the nearby Hussein hospital.

Partial strikes prevailed in Jenin and Nablus, where several stone throwing incidents took place. The old marketplace of Nablus, known as Qasabeh

neighbourhood, and the nearby Balata refugee camp remained under curfew.

In other developments, the Regional Committee of Arab Local Councils in the Galilee and Triangle in a special meeting held in Safa Amr, July 27, called on all Palestinian local



The Battle of Bir Zeit.

councils to strike for two hours in solidarity with Hebron and to protest against the criminal attack on Hebron. (Translation: Al Fajr, July 28).

Israeli soldiers dispersed more than 200 Bethlehem University students, July 28, who were protesting the attack on Hebron University two days earlier. The protesters had re-

portedly marched down from the university campus to the town, calling on shopowners to close their shops. They also barricaded the streets with stones before the army came in and dispersed them.

Earlier, a student gathering on campus condemned the attack on Hebron University.

COURT HOLDS UP BUS STATION GRAB

The Israeli High Court in Jerusalem issued an order nisi, July 26, preventing Israeli authorities from demolishing the Hebron garage terminal, which services the entire district, or using it for another purpose. The court, however, turned down the demand of the Fayez Daoud Qawami, owner of the Hebron National Bus Company, which leased the station from the municipality, and Anwar Khatib, the representative of the Tamimi clan, who are collective owners

of one of the three shares, to reopen the station and to force soldiers to evacuate it.

Fayez Qawami told *Al Fajr*, "Israeli authorities claim that they took the bus terminal station for security reasons. I do not believe this claim. Israeli authorities always use these kinds of pretexts to grab the property of the Palestinians."

Israeli soldiers took over the bus terminal following the

death of a settler more than half a kilometre away.

According to reports in the Israeli press the military are trying to persuade the bus company to move operations into the Ibrahim Mosque forecourt. The proposal has been rejected by officials of Hebron area bus operators. Israel needs to grab the old bus station if it is to make good its promises to expand Israeli settlement in the heart of the city.

حرم صبحي محمد ابو زعور
حرم ابراهيم محمد ابو زعور
(ابراهيم)

تشرافتم عوتن لاجل سوريتم زفافا ولديهما

باسم
باسم
باسم

وذلك ما بين الساعة السابعة والثامنة من مساء يوم الاحد الموافق ٣١ / ٧ / ١٩٨٣
في صالة متوديو العاصي بنابلس

وستنبرجة للزفلم

Invitations had already been sent out for the wedding of Ilham Abu Zarur, planned for July 31. (See story page 1)

3 Tourists Held After Anti-Massacre Demo, Israelis Protest Too



Three young Dutch people were arrested and detained for several hours, July 27, as they were leaving a demonstration of foreign tourists to protest the murders at Hebron University, July 26, outside the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, East Jerusalem. Israelis held two demonstrations in Jerusalem and one in Tel Aviv to protest the killing in Hebron.

The three Europeans were arrested after being followed by plain clothes police through the streets of East Jerusalem after the demonstration broke up. A friend of the three told *Al Fajr* that several vehicles followed the 30 demonstrators as they left the ICRC offices for their hotels. "We split up into separate groups

but the three Dutch were surrounded and taken away," he said. They were held until 7:00 pm and questioned by police who apparently were convinced they were from an organisation. When they had persuaded them of their tourist status they were released without charge.

The 30 or so demonstrators, mainly young people but including some older individuals, had gathered outside the Red Cross at 2:30 pm. They carried home made posters and chanted slogans against the killings in the occupied territories.

They distributed hand-written leaflets to journalists and rather bemused Palestinian pedestrians demanding an inter-

national investigation into the deaths in Hebron University and Nablus. "The murderers must be brought to justice to ensure the security of people living on the West Bank," they said.

Ewout de Jong, a young man from Holland, told *Al Fajr* that the group had met in Old City youth hostels the evening before and decided to act after discussing the latest news.

A young Dane, who asked not to be named, said he was protesting "because of my anger and sadness at what happened to Palestinians in Hebron." He proposes to join a Palestine solidarity group when he returns home after what he has seen and heard from Palestinians during his three-week holiday. "We will doubt Israeli democracy if they don't do anything to investigate the murders in Hebron," he concluded.

Sally, a 23-year-old London teacher, told *Al Fajr* that demonstrators came from Britain, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and West Germany and were students and young professionals some of whom had visited Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the West Bank. "We wanted to do something in this city because people on the west side feel distanced from the situation in the occupied terri-

ties," she affirmed, "They should press for an international inquiry into the circumstances of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but into the recent events in Hebron and Nablus in particular."

The youthful demonstrators' posters read among other things: 'shocked tourists', 'stop the murder in Hebron', 'stop the settlers' and 'we're going to tell it home.'

Israelis held two impromptu and one licensed demonstrations, one in Tel Aviv and two in Jerusalem, July 26 and 27, after news of the terror attack in Hebron.

The largest was in Tel Aviv where, according to independent estimates, upwards of 250 protesters gathered at 7:00 pm, July 26, in Dizengoff Street in the city centre. They carried placards bearing the slogan "Hebron - Pogrom '83" and chanted slogans. "There was interest from both the public and the police," said one British visitor who said he was impressed by the numbers mustered through a telephone network.

The demonstration was ordered to disperse by the police at 8:00 pm.

Later that evening, 50 Jer-

usalemites held a spontaneous protest outside the home of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Protestors, mainly from the Israeli Committee in Solidarity With Bir Zeit University, held placards demanding the dismantlement of Kiryat Arba settlement, the removal of settlers from Hebron and the disarming of Israeli civilians in the West Bank.

A fairly large force of police and border guards prevented the demonstrators from making speeches or chanting slogans and ordered them to disperse at midnight. One demonstrator said they had gathered after hearing the news of the killings in Hebron and would be escalating protests against settler vigilantism soon.

The demonstrators were received good-naturedly by the few late-night strollers, though most residents in the largely middle class neighbourhood expressed more sympathy for the settlers than for CSWBZU.

Just over 200 members and supporters of CSWBZU, according to organisers estimates, gathered outside the Knesset, July 27. The demonstration, largely ignored by the Israeli media, was called to demand an investigation into the killings in Hebron. Placards also called for the disarming of settlers.

WORKCAMPVOLUNTEERS RENOVATE JAFFA

An 'International Voluntary Protest Work Camp' commenced in Jaffa, July 23. The camp lasts two weeks and volunteers will clean up the streets and work on renovating apartments and courtyards in the Ajami and Jabalia quarters. Police have intervened twice and interrogated organisers as to the aims of the camp.

Volunteers from seven European countries, Australia, this country and Jaffa itself were welcomed to the camp in an inaugural party on the first evening. Fakhri J'dai, of the Jaffa Arab Residents League, and Rev Clement Augustine, of the Terra Sancta Church which is hosting outside volunteers, praised the 'humanitarian acts' of the volunteers.

Maya Zahavi, of Bridges for Peace, and local lawyer Nassim Shaqr accused the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality of having detailed plans to expel the local Arab population and described the camp as a protest against the process. "The Beauty of Palestine" (Jaffa) is falling to pieces in rotten pieces of garbage," they said, pointing out that the authorities have forbidden even minimal repairs.

Amos Gvartz, co-director of the camp, called the camp an "on-going demonstration" which "tries to touch the conscience and sense of shame of its members." Bernard Poisson, of Service Civile Internationale, a Paris-based organisation, said his group emphasises bringing together all human efforts and elements for peace.

The other co-director, Nahle Shaqr, showed slides to illustrate the extent of physical decay in Jaffa. The event ended with traditional and western music and dancing.

The party was attended by MKs Meir Wilner and Charlie Biton of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and Labour MK Dov Ben Meir, who is a candidate for mayor. Ben Meir left before hearing calls for him to include clauses in his manifesto supporting Arab residents.

The camp is being financed by local contributions and grants from local and international organisations. Tools came from sympathetic kibbutzim. Tel Aviv municipality refused to contribute to the camp.

Police filed a report on

camp volunteers who were mixing plaster on a sidewalk. They are accused of "blocking the street." Officers also took a list of volunteers from the work camp office. Gvartz has been questioned about the camp. He agreed to inform the authorities of any major works.

Camp organisers visited the Tel Aviv municipality, July 25, in an effort to persuade them to provide adequate garbage containers for the Jaffa Arab community. An official in the public health department told them such facilities are the responsibility of Amidar, the quasi-state housing company which owns most of the property in the area. On July 27, volunteers and organisers sent a telegram to Israeli prime minister Begin, copies to Hebron University and acting-mayor Mustafa Natshe, expressing shock at the recent killings.

Camp organisers invited *Al Fajr* readers to participate in the camp, even "if only for one day."

Sakhnin

The village council and a local voluntary work committee in Sakhnin are organising a three-day camp at the beginning of August. Potential volunteers should contact the council.

Papers Seized In News Blackout

The three Arabic dailies, *Al Fajr*, *Al Shaab* and *Al Quds* were confiscated by soldiers stationed at the northern and southern entrances of Jerusalem, July 27. The bi-weekly *Al Mithaq* was also confiscated. Editors say newspaper seizure has become almost routine on days following attacks against Palestinian residents or institutions.

Packages of papers were taken out of cars taking them to the West Bank on the grounds that the papers had "violated censorship regulations" according to official Israeli reports. Newspaper managers, who deny the Israeli claim, only became aware of the seizures when distributors phones in to complain the copies had not arrived. Once the military authorities were contacted the impounded papers were released, but by that time the day's distribution was lost.

The Israeli measure was

condemned by the Arab Journalists Association which called it another violation of freedom of the press.

Al Mithaq was grabbed for the fourth time in two weeks. Israeli Radio has claimed each time that copies were grabbed because of censorship violations.

Officials at the newspaper refuted the authorities' allegations of censorship violations; they send all articles relating to security matters, as the law stipulates, to the censor.

The four-year-old newspaper has recently come under attack in the Israeli press, which categorised it, according to *Al Mithaq* reporters, as the "most leftist" newspaper in the occupied territories. Sources in the paper say it has been making great progress in terms of distribution: "much more than what we were expecting," said one staffer.

UNION CELEBRATES KIDS

A three-day exhibition devoted to Palestinian children in the occupied territories was opened at the headquarters of the Health Services Workers Union in Ramallah, July 23.

Over 500 visitors came daily to see the three prepared

rooms full of gifts, games for children, hundreds of tales and stories, photos and portraits depicting the situation of the Palestinian children in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, in addition to national song cassettes.

Knesset Debate Over Dig

After spending eight days in prison, Neturei Karta 'foreign minister' Rabbi Moshe Hirsch was released without charges, July 21, as the fight between Orthodox Jews and archaeologists and Israeli officials moved to the Israeli Knesset.

Agudat Israel Party, the Zionist counterpart of Neturei Karta in the Orthodox community, and members in the ruling Likud coalition attempted to railroad the bill limiting archaeological digs to those permitted by the religious minister. The bill was nullified by the Knesset speaker after the tumultuous Knesset session that lasted until after midnight, July 25.

Rabbi Hirsch castigated the Agudat Israel moves in the Knesset, calling them an "attempt to defuse the issue."

Meanwhile, 59 Orthodox Jews jailed after a massive anti-dig demonstration, July 25, which included thousands of Zionist and anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews were released on IS10,000 bond pending trial.

Neturei Karta's Hirsch also asserted that contrary to common belief, Prime Minister Begin cancelled his US trip in order to be spared the agony of confronting there thousands of protesting Orthodox Jews, similar to demonstrations held during the trip to the US two years ago.

MAYORS' ATTACKERS KNOWN

JERUSALEM — According to the Tel Aviv publication *Koteret Rashit* (Main Street), Israeli military investigators know who planted the car bombs injuring two West Bank mayors, three years ago.

The suspects had been taken into custody a short while after the attempts on Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim Tawil, but would not confess.

Israeli investigators believe it was the same group that organised the 'Krystalnacht' in the town of Hahul, in January 1981, when windows of about 40 Arab-owned cars were broken in an operation coordinated with the Israeli military.

However, the police have

been unable to prosecute the suspects because they say they still need a confession, no matter how simple, in order to prepare a charge sheet against them. According to the investigators, one of the suspects is a reserve officer.

Koteret Rashit said the perpetrators have had the backing of some political circles here who have been pressuring investigators to drop the case. They are also making it virtually impossible for the police to obtain arrest warrants. The magazine said the five or six-man gang behind the assassination attempts has now been disbanded.

The names of the alleged assassins were printed in articles in *Middle East International* and *Al Fajr*, last year.

PEACE NOW PROTESTS ISRAELIS IN HEBRON

Over 3000 Peace Now activists, according to organisers, demonstrated in front of the Israeli-settled area of Hebron, July 23, for several hours to protest against recently affirmed Israeli plans to build a Jewish quarter in the city. The demonstrators also demanded the return of the bus station to its Palestinian owners and that it and the central market not be given to settlers.

The demonstrators gathered in Jerusalem and moved into the city on buses. Twenty-four hours of negotiations between the movement and the military, ending that morning, resulted in a ban on non-residents being lifted. Peace Now had announced they would go ahead and demonstrate, agreement or no.

In Hebron, protesters held a one-minute silence in memory of Aharon Gross, the settler killed July 7. They set up placards on which they wrote single words: 'enmity', 'confiscation', 'aggression', 'terror', 'ruin', and 'thievery'. They also unfurled Israeli flags. Speakers condemned land grabbing in the centre of the city and plans to establish a Jewish quarter.



Peace Now demonstrators in Hebron, July 23/ID

An eyewitness described the demonstration as "very peaceful." There was only one moment of tension when the demonstrators attempted to move towards the qasbah and were stopped by the soldiers.

The demonstration ended with the singing of the Israeli national anthem.

Tzali Reshef, a spokesman of the Peace Now movement,

told *Al Fajr* later: "Our message was sent through the demonstration. We watch closely the developments in Hebron and we know that after the army controls an area for several months, the Israeli authorities will transfer it to settlers. We will make all efforts to oppose this decision."

Peace Now say they are not mollified by last week's return of the market.

This Week's Censorship

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 169, July 29, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censor	24
Number of articles totally censored out	4
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	7
Number of articles passed	12

The Dawn

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WASHINGTON AREA JEWS



for an
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN
PEACE

POST LEBANON

US Jews: Sorting out the issues

by Ghassan Bishara

Our Washington DC Correspondent

WHO NEEDS MASKS?

Three Palestinians were killed and 38 were injured when masked gunmen burst into Hebron University campus, July 26, throwing grenades and firing semi-automatic guns. After seven very long minutes, the attackers simply drove away. Israeli military authorities arrived — 30 to 60 minutes later. The streets of Hebron were by then crowded with gunmen in and out of uniform and a curfew was imposed on the Palestinian population of Hebron and on journalists.

Israel announced that an official investigation would begin to find out who committed the crime.

Israel tells the Palestinian people to relax, sit and wait: The most powerful and efficient intelligence service in the Middle East, maybe in the world, is on the case. No doubt the killers will be found. But will they be publicly revealed? Should we believe that they will be dealt with and punished in accordance with the size of their crime?

A young woman was killed in Nablus the same day. Iham Abu Za'rour was shopping for her wedding which was to take place two days later. Israeli papers said soldiers shot her and wounded her cousin in response for demonstrations. In fact — if anyone still looks at facts — the women were shot by a pistol-toting settler. Who will investigate this murder?

The assassination attempts on the lives of three of our mayors in June 1980 is still 'pending investigation.'

Even the Hebrew press has reported that the assassins are known to the occupation authorities, yet no one has been arrested. Since then dozens of brutal attacks have occurred in the occupied territories directed against Palestinians. Unfortunately, not a single perpetrator has been revealed. Palestinians have become game for settler hunters.

Bombs have been planted in mosques, civilians have been shot in Hebron and specifically along the Kiryat Arba 'borders,' and buses or cars have been burnt. Property has been vandalised and houses destroyed, and market places burned. Last week one settler even publicly identified himself as one of those responsible for smashing Arab-owned cars in Ramallah one year ago. He has not even been questioned, even after his public confession.

After the stabbing of the settler in Hebron on July 7, Israeli settlers called openly for revenge. The chairman of the al-Aqsa take-over group, the 'Temple Mount Faithful,' Gershon Solomon, boasted to Jewish worshippers in Jerusalem after the stabbing that the world would see it revenged within 10 days.

If the available information, most of it known to people on the street, is added to the information garnered by police through their preliminary investigation and ballistics testing (there will be some won't there?), with a question about motives, it should not take experts more than 24 hours to catch the criminals.

But if the judge is your enemy...

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Menachem Begin could have expected a warm welcome from the US administration had he chosen to go to Washington this week. Some members of the Jewish community, however, had a different kind of response in mind.

A protest demonstration by American Jews against the visit of an Israeli Prime Minister, once almost unheard of, has now become common. Members of Washington Area Jews for an Israeli-Palestinian Peace (WAJIPP) were planning on using the occasion of Begin's visit to Washington to read aloud the names of those Israeli, Palestinian and Lebanese who either died, are in prison or are missing as a result of last year's war.

A Solemn Occasion

The Washington Area Jews for an Israeli-Palestinian Peace announced their intention to "voice our opposition to Israel's current policies...by reading the names of Israeli war dead, Palestinians and Lebanese war prisoners, those missing in Lebanon and those killed in the West Bank." The group aimed at doing "something moving," Franca Brilliant, a spokesperson for the group, told us. Brilliant expressed her criticism of Israeli policies and said that many American Jews had felt something should be done immediately after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The group is Washington-based and affiliated with the International Jewish Peace Union headed by Maxim Ghilan in Paris. It was established after the invasion last year. Many members of the group "had been critical of what Israel did and felt there had never been something that was so strikingly horrible as this last action," Franca said.

American Jews who have been very protective of Israel, she continued, "are beginning to get a picture of what happens on the West Bank day-to-day." The members of this group, before they organised, and other Jewish groups held demonstrations during the invasion. The anguish they felt, Franca said, compelled them to organise into what they first called "The Washington Area Jews Against the Invasion of Lebanon." Since "our ultimate goal was this idea of a peace settlement, as opposed to just getting the Israelis out of Lebanon," the group changed its name to The Washington Area Jews for an Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

WAJIPP's idea of peace is a two state solution, Franca said, although they have not yet considered all the details. The Palestinian state, she said, would be established on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, from which Israel would withdraw, and Israel will continue to

exist within the pre-'67 war borders. Franca then added that the Palestinian state they foresee is "not affiliated with Jordan but independent and on its own."

On the issue of Jerusalem, she said the group has not yet reached a consensus. "Jerusalem is a problem." Then, speaking for herself, she added that Jerusalem may be "some kind of international capital. Not split again," and neither Israeli nor Palestinian.

Franca, whose sister lives in an Israeli settlement on the West Bank, said that the group tries to work with other groups with similar concerns, such as Palestinian groups, and when they have a demonstration they "invite a whole range of Arab rights groups, civil rights groups and others." Their work has included defending the rights of prisoners in the camps and trying to achieve "an Israeli withdrawal from all of the territories and from Lebanon." The only rider WAJIPP has about withdrawal "is not to leave a vacuum behind so that there (would be) room for other massacres."

The idea of reading the names of those killed and imprisoned as a result of the invasion, Franca said, came about as they have tried different kinds of demonstrations, including rallies with Palestinian speakers and songs from both the Palestinian and Israeli cultures. "This time," she added, "we wanted to do something moving, something that would be sort of a statement." The reading of the names, she continued, would bring home to Begin the idea that "his country has suffered a great deal" because of the loss of more than 500 Israeli soldiers. They also record the tremendous Palestinian and Lebanese suffering caused by the war. The names they will read, she said, they obtained from a variety of sources, mostly media. As for the number of people who will attend, Franca said that she does not know, adding, "We mostly wanted this to be a solemn occasion," during which participants will dress in black, in a memorial-like affair.

Such activities of American Jewish groups expose their members to friction within their families and among friends. Older American Jews generally "identify very strongly as Jews," Brilliant said, "and one of the ways they do it is to support Israel." Franca's parents "said this was an anti-semitic group," she recounts sadly.

The Israeli embassy in Washington refused to receive a letter from WAJIPP which expressed how they felt about the invasion and the situation in general. All of this does not weigh, however, against the moral commitment Franca and thousands of other American Jews and maybe millions of Jews and non-Jews feel towards justice and peace.



Not only a smile...

by Thoma Shick

It's too hot these days! Strangely enough, on the northern part of the east Mediterranean coast it is even hotter! Clashes among the various Lebanese fragments are getting worse again, and the Israeli soldiers find themselves in the ridiculous task of being peace-makers after the task of being piece-makers in the same country. Soldier or policeman — what's the difference! The main thing is policing and the smile!

But the Israeli soldiers can hardly smile. Now at least 70 of them have been sentenced to terms ranging between 14-35 days in military jail, some of them twice or even three times, for refusing to serve in Lebanon. Another 500 have avoided service in Lebanon without being tried, by various tricky ways. These are the ones who the unofficial statistician reached — the *Yesh Goul* (There is a limit) people. Most probably there are many more. But the majority still serve. Peace Now followers stick to the sacredness of the army. On the other hand more than 2000 soldiers by now have signed the *Yesh Goul* petition calling on the government not to send them to Lebanon. But even the majority of these go into service when called... Many refuse also to serve in the 1967 occupied territories. But this is not the subject I want to draw your attention to now. After all, I promised: not only a smile!

The government of Israel cares so much for tourists that it has even invited them to an exhibition. It's going on until the end of the month: *Ein Folk und seine Armee* it's called. I'm sorry: *A People and its Army*. It appears also in French but it sounds even worse. Yes, I found a little brochure in three languages. Read it yourself:

A People and its Army is being subject to tribute in the Israel Defense Forces on the 30th year of its founding.

At the same time, the *Yesh Goul* and the *Yesh Goul* are being subject to tribute in the Israel Defense Forces on the 30th year of its founding.

During the year's leading up to the establishment of the IDF and during the 30 years thereafter, the Israeli people have been subject to the most severe and systematic persecution in the history of the Jewish people.

The Ministry of Tourism Jerusalem

It is an invitation not only to see, but also to participate! Don't be a passive passerby, a tourist, but be one of us! A participant! A collaborator??

If the exhibition, with its exercises, does not satisfy your desires, and if you are young enough and also Jewish, you may join special summer camps in *gadna* (youth troop) bases. The camps are organized for 15-18-year-old boys and girls, descendants of Israeli emigrants

COEXISTENCE? HOW?

and other Jewish families abroad, report *Haaretz*, *Davar* and the Israel Radio. This is the third year it is being held, organized by the army *gadna* chief command and the World Zionist Organization. Some of the participants of such camps in the past have already immigrated to Israel and are serving in the army, reports *Davar*.

Some overly-sophisticated Israelis complained about the high expenses of the arms exhibition and the maintenance of the occupation of Lebanon, forgetting that it is this fun that draws the modern youth of the world to this country. What do those silly pacifists in Europe say about the British army? "Join the Army — Meet Interesting People — and Kill Them!" Nothing to do with reality? It's a fact — tens of thousands go to the exhibition every day, parents taking their little children with them... humans are children forever, always wanting toys...

So a tourist gets not only a smile, you see? It's also a feeling of togetherness. Likud or *Ma'arakh* (Alignment) — all the same...the People's Army.

That reminds me, three weeks ago a young Jewish American man was killed in Hebron. He was 19, had a gun and didn't even know how to use it, so when he was attacked by embittered Arab inhabitants, who considered him wrongly, I believe, as a representative of the oppressor, he simply died. And nobody came to help him and rescue him.

The friendly settlers and the soldiers were busy chasing the assassins and thought the wounded man was an Arab. Afterwards, an Arab man thought the victim was his son, assassinated in revenge for his own brother's killing of six Israelis. He tried to rescue the boy, but the hospital declared him dead. When starting to prepare for the funeral, his real son showed up — fully alive. The poor man, shocked twice, was afraid to rejoice at the 'rebirth' of his son, which could be interpreted as rejoicing for the dead Jew... Please don't blame me for arrogance or being too sarcastic. I still respect human life, I apologise!

This young man, Aharon Gross,

an American Jew in Israel-Palestine, had a lot: a smile, a gun, a yeshiva, some knives in his body — he died as a Jew, then died as an Arab, and also served the cause!

Isn't that wonderful? So much in a short life? Poor innocent fellow — I mean this wholeheartedly.

Now there is a curfew in Hebron and all the Arab inhabitants are locked in their houses. The yeshiva students and settlers demanded the curfew because, "When the Arabs are in their houses, Hebron is a Jewish town." The curfew doesn't apply to Jews.



Now a serious word about another young man who stays in a yeshiva in Hebron, "just because the Rabbi is a wonderful teacher"... as one told the Hebrew newspaper in an interview relating to the death of the above mentioned Aharon Gross. This young man was convinced, without a doubt, that there is a parallel between the rights of "Palestinian Arabs returning to Haifa" and "Jews returning to Hebron." No, he didn't speak about a principle, or something that should take place, but for him it was actual fact. He said he was told by his teachers that Arabs went back to Haifa after 1967, without paying anything for their houses; and the Jews who "return" to Hebron pay for the houses they take back from the Arabs. Therefore, he thought, Jews have the full right to return to Hebron.

This chap has a falsified picture of the facts. It should be borne in mind that not one refugee from Haifa has returned there, at least not legally. And

no house in Israel proper, inside its 1949 Armistice boundaries, has been returned to Arab possession. On the contrary! More and more property in the 1967 occupied territories is being confiscated and expropriated from Arab inhabitants.

Furthermore, in 1967, later reinforced in 1981, East Jerusalem was formally annexed to West Jerusalem and to Israel, together with villages surrounding the town. In all these places there live many people who are refugees from towns and villages in pre-'48 Palestine, whose property is under Israeli control. These are also genuine Jerusalemites, either originally from East Jerusalem or those who have fled West Jerusalem.

None of these displaced people can claim their property as "abandoned" in 1948-49, even if they become Israeli citizens. (Israeli citizenship is neither automatic nor obligatory for these people living on annexed land. Indeed the people have not been annexed, they are free to leave the country, if they only wished to do so...)

But the yeshiva student in Hebron didn't invent the story he had heard. For sure it was told to him when he questioned why the Israelis behave like American cowboys did towards the Indians....

Another word about Hebron; you might know there was a massacre in Hebron back in 1929. Arabs killed Jews — individuals and whole families. Although it's not an excuse, this massacre was most probably instigated by some British officers. The massacre is a fact. Sixty Jews were killed in what has become a legend already, often used in demagogic Zionist speeches and lectures.

On the the same occasion, 201 Jews were saved by local Arab neighbours, who hid them in their houses, often risking their own lives. Yes, once there was a Jewish quarter in Hebron! I wish Jews would like to return there as equal neighbours who share the life.

A visitor should not push out the landowners; certainly a neighbour should not do so.

...with a smile.
Thoma

How deep is governmental mourning?

by Thoma Shick

During the last five months, the government of Israel has published in the daily Hebrew press notices and condolences to the families of Emil Greenzweig (Peace Now demonstrator, killed in a grenade attack on a Peace Now demonstration in Jerusalem), Esther Ohana (Israeli civilian, killed by a stone thrown at a military vehicle in the occupied territories) and Aharon Gross (settler, stabbed to death in the centre of Hebron in the occupied territories). A comparative examination of the three obituaries shows that there are small differences between them. Greenzweig was a 'victim of wrongdoers,' and Ohana was a 'victim of terrorist wrongdoers.' For the death of Aharon Gross the

government of Israel expresses 'deep sorrow' — about Greenzweig and Ohana it only 'mourns.'

Aharon Lishanski, Deputy Secretary of the Government, explains the difference in texts: "We have several texts and we use them individually to suit each case. When we are informed about a certain event — a 'terrorist' hit or the decease of a personality, for instance — we chose the suitable text and submit it for the inspection of the press secretary for the government, Dan Avidor, before publication. There is a team of people, myself included, that takes care of this subject."

To the question of how and why the different texts in the above mentioned three cases were chosen, Lishanski

said: "We receive from our sources verification about the nature of the incident and only then do we decide about the text. In the case of Emil Greenzweig, we certainly don't know who killed him. But it is sure that they were wrongdoers. In the case of Aharon Gross, it is clear that terrorists murdered him. Therefore the obituary mentions murderous wrongdoers. In regards to Esther Ohana, it was clear that she also was murdered by terrorists, and according to that the notice was texted."

The above is from an article by *Anath Tel-Shir*, published in *Ha'ar* on July 15, 1983.

Note from Thoma Shick: Let's say that this has some logic. However, the varying depths of sorrow and mourning are still not yet explained.

SINGING FOR PALESTINE

by Awad Abdel Fattah

After spending eight years in Germany, Mustafa Kurd, the famous Palestinian *ud* (an instrument similar to a lute) player and nationalist singer returned to Palestine, July 11. Kurd is staying at present in his mother's ground-floor flat in Ramallah with his German wife and their son. His poor mother had moved a few years earlier from their original long-rented apartment because she could no longer afford to pay the increasing rent.

He sat on a sofa, dressed in a long white robe (*galabia*), with his *ud* standing in a corner. He speaks very slowly and calmly, thinking over every word he says. Maybe he wanted to be cautious because of the situation he was in.

Kurd said he never thought of staying outside the country forever. He always had his return in mind. However, he is aware that by living abroad, under difficult conditions, he acted contrary to his first national song, which he composed and sang shortly after the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and which begins, "Don't leave your land."

"I left for abroad," Kurd explained, "under economic, political and social pressures." He clarified that he also was not expelled by the Israeli authorities and that the rumour of his expulsion was a misunderstanding of many people.

Kurd's national feeling was reflected in his artistic activities from the first years of the occupation. Besides his work as a blacksmith, he learned *ud* playing and sang national songs in mass

gatherings and on national occasions. "But this," said Kurd, "was never a source of livelihood for me. I belong to a poor working family. My father worked as a carpenter and we lived only from our wages as hired labourers."

Before the closing of the Jerusalem Blacksmiths Union by the Israelis in 1968, Kurd was head of the art committee and organised several festivities. Other attempts which were made by the same committee to set up an art club and an institute after the closure were aborted under economic pressure just two years later. "However," he remarked, "we succeeded in fostering the artistic talents of a good number of people."

At the same time he continued to take part in cultural programmes and parties in the Palestinian universities, despite his lack of money and rising pressure by the authorities.

On December 28, 1976, Mustafa Kurd travelled to East Germany at the invitation of cultural groups to take part in a political song festival. This was the beginning of his life outside.

At the time Kurd believed that he would produce better art outside.

But he admits now that his stay outside was also motivated by the temptations abroad. "The artist is a man of flesh and blood," he continued, "but I was not running after the temptations and my stay there contributed to the development of Palestinian political song." He also told *Al Fajr* that he studied music in depth in West Germany, including its history and development, in an art institute.



Kurd took part and sang in many song festivals in different countries, at the invitation of liberal and progressive institutions, parties and bodies. According to him these groups invited him after hearing his music. He used to sing in his native language but distributed a translated copy of the song in the language of the concerned public to the audience.

Kurd's experience abroad has constituted a qualitative leap in his general artistic development. His songs have taken on international flavour, instead of being restricted to the national framework. This is in addition to the development to the form of the song.

Kurd told *Al Fajr* that he sang many times for the workers in their places of work, factories and construction projects, mainly in Germany and Bulgaria. "For me," explained Kurd, "there is no difference between the poor Abu Suleiman and the poor John in America." He added that his world outlook is that oppression is the same wherever it is found, "although it varies in form — and for me the cause is not connected only with a spot of land or a

group of people." He added that he views the Palestinian cause as part of the international problem.

Regarding the Palestinian political song in the occupied territories, Kurd thinks that it has not developed as much "as the Lebanese political song, for example." He attributes this to a large extent to the restrictions imposed on art by the occupation. "However," he added, "we can only say that the people's knowledge of the Palestinian song is an achievement."

He believes that the political songs must be mobilising and not enthusiastic. "The effect of the song," he explained, "must be long term and should not only release the tension of the people but teach them also."

When he was asked by *Al Fajr* what his future plans are since his return to Palestine, he answered, "I will sing in Bab al-Amoud (the entrance to the Old City market)." He added, "I am a singer and I will continue to sing for man, against oppression, against killing, and I believe that this is stronger than the weapons of the oppressor."

by Zvi Bareil

Haaretz 14.7.83

As they say in the spy thriller, "It rang a bell with him..." That is exactly what happened to me while reading the letter of explanation for the Hebron mayor's dismissal issued by the commander of the central district, General Uri Orr. I was quite sure that I recognised the source of this issued manifest. Finally, I remembered reading in the June edition of *Nikuda*, the Gush Emunim paper published by the Jewish Settlement Council in 'Judea and Samaria', a report under the title, *Special: Mohammed's Report*, written by Eliakim Haetzi, in which he writes: "Hundreds of provocative pamphlets for violence and murders were discovered on the table of an Arab town's mayor, and the police have evidence against two members of the municipality and two officials, but the file has been frozen by the police for more than a year and has not been presented to the court." On the other hand, we find the following in the general's letter of explanation: "On April 11, 1982, huge numbers of provocative pamphlets against the 'civil administration' were found on the mayor's desk... In these pamphlets was a misrepresentation of what happened at al-Aqsa Mosque and an explicit call for civil disobedience." Neither *Mohammed's Report* by Haetzi nor the general's letter of explanation bother to indicate that the mayor was investigated and the charges were dropped.

Second argument: In his *Mohammed's Report*, Haetzi writes, "A mayor in one of the towns in Judea and Samaria (a PLO figure) issues housing licences outside his town's limits." These

illegal licences were given for areas close to Jewish settlements. Similarly, the general, in his letter of explanation, says: "The municipality established 24 industrial buildings in the industrial areas without the approval of the Supreme Planning Council. The municipality was not allowed to issue these licences because the area is not included in the town limits."

WHO DISMISSED NATSHE ?

Third argument: Haetzi angrily asks in his report: "Why does the military administration not interfere, when this municipality (Hebron) supplies electricity for hundreds of consumers outside the town limits?" The general does not ask the question, but presents it as a fact: "The municipality placed five electricity lines and northern and southern base-courses for neighbouring villages and neighbourhoods outside its limits, without the legal approval to carry out these plans for areas outside its limits."

The resemblance between Mohammed's Report and the general's formulations are close even in the smallest of details. For example, "The mayor established an illegal sawmill," says Haetzi, and adds, "A local court asked him to destroy it, and the authorities did not execute the order." The general after him also says: "The sawmill of the mayor is outside the municipal limits and was built by the mayor illegally and without a permit. He was charged and convicted four times in all of them, and the court decided that the building was

illegal."

But the general's letter of explanation does not stop here, and we find on the last page: "During 1982-83, the municipality received IS\$7.5 million from Jordan without a permit, and the money was used for the following: services and salaries — IS\$2.6 million; water and electricity projects — IS\$10.5

million; other projects in the town — IS\$18.4 million. The municipality also carried out projects and works which require the presenting of a proposal and receipt of approval from the staff officer in the 'civil administration', but the municipality did not get these permits and carried out all these projects without issuing any proposals or receiving permits. The total amount of these proposals was IS\$30 million."

The questions is — why did the municipality not get the permits? The answer is because it has boycotted the 'civil administration', which means, as long as a national municipality boycotts the 'civil administration', the citizens have to suffer. The municipality believed that its task was to carry out its responsibility as required by Jordanian law, even if it did not receive the permits. The expenses detailed indicate that the municipality was investing its resources in electricity, water and development plans, but the general presents the situation in a misleading way, stating about the 'violations' of the municipality that "the administration of municipality

affairs was performed in a bungling way, against the law, and was harmful to the citizens." The question is, how could the citizens of the town be harmed by water and electricity projects? There is no answer to this question.

By the way, these excuses were used in the past to dissolve other municipalities according to the vicious circular reasoning that since the municipality boycotts, it will not get permission for budgets and projects. As a result, the citizens will suffer. Therefore it is possible to dismiss the mayor, for failure to fulfil his obligations towards the citizens.

Jordanian law states, in this respect, the following: "The interior minister, or any official representing him, is authorised to enter any municipality at any time he finds appropriate and check all financial and administrative transactions and municipal decisions... And one who objects to, blocks or prevents the performance of these instructions, in the above mentioned article, will be considered to be putting obstacles in front of a state employee in the fulfilment of his duty and will be charged according to the law." In another article of the law, it was stated: "One who violates one of these instructions of the law (municipalities law) or violates any regulation of this law, which carries no specific punishment, will be fined no more than JD5." Therefore, the question is, who did block the 'civil administration' from controlling and checking whether illegal income was received by the municipality or whether projects were conducted without permits? Who blocked the Internal Affairs staff officer from charging the mayor or any of his

continued on page 13

by Judith Thompson

Since the 1967 War, the Middle East has been the depot of a massive arms build-up. It is more heavily armed and politically postured for war than any other region. A look at US influence in the area shows an 18-fold increase in military and economic aid to Israel from 1971, \$140 million, to 1983, \$2.485 billion, or roughly a \$7 million a day US government expenditure: Egypt's daily debt to the US is \$5.6 million.

This militarization has advanced through several critical stages, fueled by the increasingly confrontational policies of the superpowers, who consistently interpret events in the region solely in terms of their own 'vital interests' in the oil-strategic Gulf. Aside from the ill-fated Soviet-American attempt in 1977 to convene a new Geneva Peace Conference to resolve the Palestinian problem, the superpowers, and particularly the US, have refused to acknowledge the Palestine issue as the key to unlocking the door to peace and stability in the region. The self-perpetuating policy of denial and militarization is ushering in what could be the final military-strategic shift in the Middle East - nuclearization.

Israel's Nuclear Capability

The Israeli monthly *New Outlook* made an admirable attempt to raise the nuclear issue in May 1982 and included an appeal by Peace Now's Gary Brenner for the establishment of a national steering committee against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. Such a committee would be of vital importance in drawing attention to Israel's nuclear option and the likelihood, in due time, of an Arab

response. Given the geographical equations, most Israelis can easily see that a nuclear balance of terror in the Middle East would find them terribly outnumbered. Several prominent Israelis have called upon the superpowers to "impose a nuclear demilitarization on all countries in the region."

NATO's New Nuclear Deterrent

Unfortunately, the hope for a 'responsible' approach from the superpowers could not be farther from events. NATO-backed US missiles, soon to be strategically placed in Sicily, will effectively kill the idea of a denuclearized Middle East. The NATO Cruise missiles, which can be targeted on Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, could, on the contrary, release the final nuclear safety latch, setting loose a chain reaction which might end in the final superpower checkmate in the Middle East. In a region commonly acknowledged as the most likely brewing ground for WWII, NATO's introduction of first-strike nuclear weapons represents the gravest irresponsibility.

This latest US 'deterrent' to Soviet 'aggression' is a two-pronged strategy: NATO recently decided to endorse and support logistically the US Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) activities in the Middle East, and to deploy first-strike nuclear capabilities through US Cruise missiles.

Ever since the Shah's downfall, the US has moved steadily away from political initiatives on the Palestinian question and towards a build up of RDF capabilities as a means of asserting US hegemony in the Gulf. The recent NATO

decision officially endorses this trend. In what US Secretary of Defence Weinberger called the most unanimous NATO meeting in two years, the Alliance ministers said that the US, in consultation with the Allies, should take action outside of Europe and the North Atlantic area to "deter threats to the vital interests of the West." A *New York Times* article ("NATO Backs US Operations in the Middle East," December 3, 1982) goes on to report: "The Allies acknowledged that other individual Allied nations, on the basis of national decision, would make an important contribution to the security of the Alliance by making available facilities to assist such deployments needed to strengthen deterrence in such areas...It clearly refers to the possible use of the US RDF to block threats to the oil producing areas in the Middle East."

The first test of this new US/NATO relationship outside Alliance territory is underway in Italy, where international peace efforts have been focused on blocking the deployment of 112 Cruise missiles scheduled for December 1983. The independent Italian Communist newspaper, *Il Manifesto* reported on December 7, 1982: "The NATO pact has been changed. It had defensive goals, but if NATO countries have to support the RDF, it could be involved in offensive actions." Michael Klare, fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, adds to this: "You can see that NATO is slowly and almost secretly transformed into upholding the RDF." (*Il Manifesto*, December 15). Jeffrey Record, a member of the influential Institute for Policy Analysis, a conservative think-tank, confirmed US intentions in Italy: "Yes, we are considering using our military bases for actions in the Middle East or Gulf." (*Il Manifesto*). Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Colombo indicated Italy's willingness to assist in these RDF activities. Citing Italy's role in the Lebanese and Sinai peace-keeping forces, Secretary of State Shultz in turn called Italy a "great friend and ally."

The most destabilizing leg of the NATO strategy is the Cruise missile deployment in Sicily. As part of the nuclear first strike strategy officially announced by President Carter in 1980, the 112 Cruise missiles mock any claim of deterrence since their explicit function is to strike first. Capable of flying only a few feet above tree tops, the Cruise missiles can avoid radar detection. They are steered by computer, have a range of 1500 miles and are able to strike within 30-60 feet of their target. These features make them tailored to knock out enemy missiles before retaliation is possible. Such a prospect forces the Soviets to resort to a 'launch-on-warning' system of immediate release of their missiles as soon as they detect a strike. (In the case of NATO Pershing II missiles to be deployed in West Germany, the flight time of 6-8 minutes from launch to strike leaves virtually no margin for error in Soviet detection systems.)

The strategic Mediterranean site for the Cruise missile is Comiso, Sicily, an agricultural area on the southern coast of the island, and known in earlier decades for its strong resistance against fascism. There, an airport named Maglioccolo, built by Mussolini to control the North African coast, is being refurbished as a missile bed. Plans ominously include quarters for 5000 US troops, presumably a staging point for RDF operations.

Sicily's central Mediterranean location has long been recognised for its strategic importance; it already hosts a massive presence of US and NATO troops including the US Sixth Fleet, US Navy tankers, US controlled NATO airbases with 6000 US military personnel, missiles, munitions and anti-aircraft systems. Plans for the future also include construction of the largest radar station in the world, underground tunnels for submarines and a 3000-bed hospital near the town of Comiso.

The Struggle for Comiso

Despite its remoteness, Comiso is attracting crowds of international peace activists in preparation for the upcoming demonstrations and actions against the NATO base. In 1981 and '82, 500,000 people demonstrated in Rome, and in

Nato in the Middle East: Lighting the Fuse



With a range of 1500 miles, Cruise missiles based in Comiso would penetrate about 800 miles further south than any other. Unable to reach most major cities in the USSR, they can reach all of North Africa and most of the Middle East.

April 100,000 people protested in Comiso. Petitions circulating in Sicily have generated one million signatures against the base and 70 percent of Comiso's voters have opposed its construction. In December 1982, a massive protest march took place from Milan to Comiso, a distance of 500-600 miles. International hunger strikers staged a 12-day fast at the base. This summer and fall, activities will be stepped up as the December deployment date approaches. An International Peace Camp will consist of up to 1000 peace activists from around the world. International religious delegations are being planned with special hopes of influencing the powerful Catholic institutions which exert enormous influence on Italian popular opinion and politics. Civil disobedience will almost certainly be an important element in the Comiso campaign.

These activities are part of a coordinated international campaign to halt NATO's plan to deploy 464 Cruise and 108 Pershing II missiles throughout Europe. These will be the first US missiles on European soil capable of penetrating the Soviet heartland. That, combined with their pinpoint accuracy, will certainly provoke a Soviet response and a similar production of these critically destabilizing first strike weapons systems.

The Reagan administration is using the paralyzed Geneva arms negotiations as its way to feign a disarmament posture, yet it is common knowledge that no progress can be expected in Geneva. Even the remote possibility for 'a deal' with the Soviets would probably exclude Comiso. A letter from the Dutch peace movement (November 13, 1982) to organizers in Comiso stated: "The Dutch peace movement recognizes the danger that the outcome of Geneva could be that Central Europe would be free of Cruise missiles while in Italy they will be deployed. Such an outcome is for us unacceptable." The US and NATO defence strategists see Comiso as a priority because it presents numerous nuclear options. Ben Thompson of the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) group stated recently: "The missiles in Comiso could be used either in a conflict in Europe or in a conflict arising from

one of the flashpoints in the Middle East, a generous choice of two 'limited nuclear wars.'" To movement organizers, Comiso is the kingpin. As the first site to receive the missiles, it is felt that success in blocking them there will greatly decrease the probability of their subsequent deployment throughout Europe.

What's Missing

The Comiso missiles can only reach limited portions of the south-western USSR while they are able to hit all areas of North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Nigeria, Chad, Egypt) and the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the West Bank and Gaza). The Middle East connection has not been sufficiently emphasized outside Italy. However, throughout Italy, Sicily, and Comiso itself, grassroots and national bodies are strongly underlining this connection and expressing a clear sense of solidarity with the Palestinians, whose fate, which has always suffered in the hands of superpower politics, is now tied to Comiso as well.

In January, a delegation of Hiroshima survivors visited Comiso to dramatize the crisis. Those in Comiso fear that they will be among the first targets in any future US-Soviet nuclear exchange. But they are also aware of the likely possibility that Comiso missiles will be launched first and result in a Middle East Hiroshima. Each of the 112 Cruise missiles is equivalent to 16 times the destructive capacity of the Hiroshima A-bomb.

Organizers for the Comiso Campaign are anxious to build strong links with Middle East peace forces and hope to host a delegation of Palestinians and progressive Jews in September. Italy, and especially Rome, has long been a centre of sympathy and support for Palestinian aspirations - more so than any European country. It is felt that the conscious joining of these now inseparable issues could greatly benefit each one. The Comiso Campaign, and inevitably the international movement at large, offers new exposure for Palestinian aspirations based on the conviction that the only way to defuse tensions in the Middle East and offer hope for denuclearization is to come to a truly equitable and just solution of the Palestinian problem.

Where and when the missiles will be deployed

Sites	Number & type	Deployment starts
Greenham Common (Britain)	96 cruise	1983
Comiso (Italy)	112 cruise	1983
Neckarsulm (West Germany)	36 Pershing-2	1983
Schwäbisch-Grund (West Germany)	36 Pershing-2	1983
Nau-Ulm (West Germany)	36 Pershing-2	1983
Florennes (Belgium)	40 cruise	1984?
Woensdrecht (Holland)	48 cruise	1985?
Hasselbach (West Germany)	96 cruise	1986?
Molesworth (Britain)	64 cruise	1987?

Professor Walid Khalidi put it this way: "No one knows what an Arab world bereft of the Palestinian problem would look like, but there are excellent reasons for trying to find out. For Israel, a settlement of the Palestine problem will mean the end of war, and for the Palestinians, a sovereign Palestinian state on the West Bank, in the Gaza Strip and in East Jerusalem in coexistence with Israel. The incentives for Arab acquisition of nuclear weapons to match Israel's (or NATO-JT) will become less cogent." (*Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1981).

The Jews and the Bomb

Although some hardline Israeli officials may welcome the NATO backup support to their own nuclear option, this dominance will be quickly corrected through a counter-positioning of Soviet missiles. In addition, this double-edged nuclear threat will likely provide all the more incentive for the Arabs to hasten their own nuclear option. In the guise of security, Israeli will be, in such a scenario, less secure than ever - held hostage by its neighbour's nuclear threat and geographically dwarfed beyond hope should a showdown take place. Of course, talk of any winners in such a situation is irrelevant. In fact, it is not hard to imagine the possibility of a total nuclear war beginning from a conventional regional conflict, especially one involving the US RDF. Former Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur confidently stated: "The next Arab-Israeli war, if it occurs, will bring us to the edge of a nuclear confrontation." (*New Outlook*, May 1982).

Hillel Schenker drew this parallel: "We Jews tend to forget sometimes that there were two traumatic holocausts perpetrated against segments of humanity during World War II. One was the

systematic murder of six million of our fellow Jews by the Nazis. The other was the opening of the atomic age, when Americans dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The command 'Never forget' should apply to both holocausts. And Jews, who suffered so much from the Nazi-perpetrated holocaust, should have more than average empathy and sensitivity towards the victims of the other holocaust." (*Ibid*).

Responsible Israeli peace activists cannot afford to ignore the nuclear issue. Proposals like Gary Brenner's need serious consideration. A sober look at this issue cannot help but move Jews and Arabs closer together, for there will be no denuclearization without peace, and if there is no denuclearization it is only a matter of time until the next holocaust.

Conclusions

The Comiso variable will totally change the face of power in the Middle East. Opposing the Cruise deployment unites the people of Comiso with all peace seekers in the Middle East. Their issues have become one and the same.

A November Nuclear Free Mediterranean Conference in Palermo, Sicily will convene representatives from all countries bordering the Mediterranean. In addition, it is certain that the Comiso Campaign will command international media attention in the coming months. As hostilities continue to escalate in Lebanon and West Bank settlements shadow hopes for justice, the Comiso forum is an opportunity to put the Palestinian case again before the world, in solidarity with the international peace movement efforts.

One of the world's foremost nuclear opponents E.P. Thompson summed up the situation clearly: "There is surely no question whatsoever that if Europe deeply needs a European Nuclear Free Zone to start pushing the Cold War back into memory, the Middle East needs a Nuclear Free Zone quite desperately and urgently for self-preservation."

The crucial answers cannot be avoided. In the words of Hillel Schenker: "By process of elimination the only way left to denuclearize the Middle East is to arrive at a just and comprehensive resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict...and time is running out."

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Ground-launched Cruise missiles (GLCMs) are small and versatile. Flying only a few feet above the trees, they avoid radar detection. Steered by computers, they can fly for more than 1500 miles and strike within 60 feet of their target. Their explosive power can be as high as 200 kilotons - 16 times that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Its small size makes the Cruise the first strategic nuclear missile that can be easily concealed from spy satellites and thus not subject to verification. Their size and mobility also raise the possibility that they could be hijacked and fired from a flat-bed truck. Their relatively low cost makes proliferation a disturbing likelihood. Finally, the Cruise missiles can carry either nuclear or conventional warheads, adding to verification problems.

I had not been acquainted with him long, if acquaintance should be measured in time. But there are minutes in the lifetime of a person that reflect so much more brightly his personal entity and are therefore worth more than acquaintances of years. Therefore I can say that I knew him very well. Until the event I'll describe below, and then I'd not met him yet, he was nothing to me other than a weapons merchant and maybe for other goods as well, under the guise of a Jewish businessman who knew how to be of help at the moment of need.

At that period of time, one of the most well-known prisoners in the women's prison of Bethlehem, Geula Cohen — now a member of Knesset for the extreme right-wing Tachia Party — became ill, and because her illness was severe she was taken to the government hospital in Jerusalem, near the Central Prison. As was well known, but perhaps is not so well known anymore, there was no other wish for a prisoner, whether sick or dying, but to break through the prison walls in any way. (Except for the Haganah people of course, if they could at all be called an underground. They anticipated the goodwill of the High Commissioner, through the mediation of the National Institutions' [Zionist] leadership, the same people who later filled the posts of prime minister and ministers of the state of Israel until the present Likud government took power in 1977.) Because the possibility for escape from the Bethlehem prison was, let us say, almost impossible, it was clear that the said prisoner transfer drew much attention and immediately someone who had the right idea appeared — to get her through the WC like he had done a year earlier.

There was not enough information to start the operation until little Sara came along. She was a god-like angel in the form of a pitiful nurse serving in that building. She was very little and pretty; she had small, very wise and encouraging eyes. She contacted us and expressed willingness to help. Through her, a wide window was broken through into the hospital and we could observe it as we wished.

The detention room was situated on an intermediate floor between the ground and the first floor. In the same room there was another patient, a senile old Arab woman whose days were numbered. Near the detainee's bed there was a woman prison guard, day and night. There were no other rooms on that floor, but the WC and the tub that were located in the L-shaped corridor. At one end there was a staircase and service rooms, and at the other end the room. Between them a British policeman was on permanent duty. The idea was to smuggle in an Arab woman's dress and scarf to the bathroom so the prisoner could change her clothes and get out as an Arab woman. But there was no movement of other visitors there and the guard used to watch the prisoner even near the WC. The operation seemed impossible. It was necessary to create movement of Arab visitors, the purpose of which was to draw the attention of the prison guard and the policeman at the critical moment. Jews in the roles of Arabs could fail and endanger themselves; therefore it was decided that the visitors must be Arabs. From where could one find Arabs who could perform such an independent action? How much money would this cost and how far would it be possible to trust them?

That same businessman was an extremely pretentious person, but not in the manner of the pretentious — he was also practical. He immediately advised us to meet with Yusef Abu Ghosh as the person suitable for this operation. The meeting took place in his house. At the fixed time a 25-year-old man arrived. He was thin and not tall, had a very Arab face and very black hair, oiled and combed to the sides with a part in the middle. He wore a European black suit, quite shiny. Even the red handkerchief was not missing from his jacket's upper pocket. It was obvious that he had prepared himself well for this meeting and considered it an important and special opportunity.



ABU GHOSH: A Story

Because Abu Ghosh was well known as a friend of the Jews, he just sat and trusted his friends and his future. However, he had nothing to be so trusting about.

After a polite greeting and a conversation to find out his motivations — the result of which seemed to be quite positive — we settled down to discuss the programme. He spoke clear Hebrew that came nicely through his shining teeth in the black frame of his moustache — except the 'P' turned into 'B' in spite of his best endeavours. The project made him very enthusiastic and he was prep. for anything. It was decided to find a nice Yemenite woman to act as his wife in the hospital without opening her mouth. Both would have the task of smuggling in the Arab woman's dress and at the exact time of the break, to bother the prison guard with questions and to block the policeman's view.

The project seemed already to be quite practical but the prison guard and the policeman were not in the bag. More tricks had to be invented. We wanted to stage a fight in the corridor at the same time. "Why not?" asked Abu Ghosh. "The idea is wonderful and practicable." He had two cousins, Abed and Mohammed, and they would have a fight. It was not clear how he got their trust so that they would agree to cooperate, but he had no doubts, and on this basis the detailed discussion of the programme continued, from that moment including them.

This conversation made it possible to examine in the meantime the person Abu Ghosh from all his sides. He discussed the project as if he was speaking of his own mother's or wife's escape. He involved his cousins and himself without hesitation and it was clear that if ordered, he would go alone and attack the hospital. It was already clear, without asking, that he would not ask for any reward. He was an enemy of the British and a friend of the Jews and wanted to prove this by actions.

This was not a friendship of an obsequious inferior. He was aspiring to the kinship of the militants. He wanted to make war on the British from the Arab side in cooperation and coordination with the Hebrew underground. It was therefore clear why he was so prepared for and excited by this meeting. It was clarified that for a long time he had sent offers to the underground's central command to organise Arab units under his command, which in the beginning would act in undermining the transportation of the British army along the roads to which Jews had no approach.

He claimed that he would be able to immediately mobilise about 100 men

Arab woman in the detainee's room, to get acquainted with the local conditions and with the prisoner. So did Yusef, who came with the Yemenite woman dressed in black and covered with a veil. They returned from the visits saying, with smiles, that the old woman wondered a lot about the sudden rush of unknown visitors and the masses of gifts she got. Fortunately she could not express herself.

On Thursday morning there was a general rehearsal. The operation would not last longer than seven minutes. At 2:00 pm the detainee would go out to the toilets where she would immediately dress in the Arab woman's robe, which would be hidden there by Yusef a few minutes earlier when coming to visit his 'wife.' At 2:03 Yusef would turn, accompanied as always by his wife, with various questions to the prison guard and continue to converse with her until the escape. At 2:05 the cousins would end their visit to the confused old lady with a bitter conversation between themselves, until they got to the policeman's seat when they would start fighting, but with the use of fists. At the moment of highest tension, when all the attention of the guard and the policeman would be drawn to the villagers, Yusef's 'wife' would cry out "Yabaye, yabaye" — as a sign for the detainee to escape.

At 2:07 — general withdrawal. First Yusef and his 'wife,' and after them the villagers who would continue to quarrel all along the staircase. Outside, a young Yemenite woman would sit with a basket covered with a red rag for identification and she would lead the escapee to a taxi. This would take her to another street where she would change robes again and from there walk with armed guards to one of the neighbouring Jerusalem houses. In the operation, preciseness was of the essence. Any mistake could endanger it and its participants.

A little while before zero hour, the nurse gave the detainee a pocket watch, money and an address in the town, just in case. A few minutes before they entered the building, three accurate watches were given to the Arabs who came prepared to the Arab bus station close by the hospital. The watches were synchronized with the detainee's and they made a last rehearsal. They were very calm and self-confident. The only question was how accurate they could be.

Hillel Street, near the student's restaurant, was planned as the last stage of the action. The street should hide the escapee. If the machine was going to work well, then at 2:10 the escapee would be at the right place with the armed escort.

The time was already 2:05. At this moment they are busy there: the British, the prison guard, the detainee... 2:07. A successful end or a failure? 2:08, 2:10. Here comes the escapee and her escort. It was a pleasant and warm feeling. She was rushed into the room. She was ill with pneumonia and had not recovered yet. Alone, she would have collapsed in the street long ago. In the same room there was a sick student who got up and gave his bed to the woman. After the details of defending the escapee were fixed, in case of searches, Yusef had to be met in the fields of Beit Karem.

He was sitting there already, stuck to the rocks, waiting; then he jumped up from his seat. He was excited and immediately asked about the detainee and when he heard that she was already in safe hands he gave generous kisses

continued on page 13



COMRADE VERONICA

by Ibrahim Dakkak

The section of the Via Dolorosa stretching between Khan al-Zeit and Wad road, which connects the seventh with the fifth stations of the cross, passes by the Church of Christ's Face. Over the sixth station stands the Veronica Church.

I admit and concede that there was no reason for me to go from Khan al-Zeit to Wad road on that Sunday; to pass the Khadir Colonnades, to stop in front of the church of Veronica and to go inside and to sit in a pew behind the worshippers. There was also no reason for the results of my visit.

I was not in the habit of visiting church on Sunday. My father used to beg me to go with him to pray on time, but I preferred to visit churches at other times. I loved to listen to the music of the organ pervading the atmosphere the church with peace and meditative calm, which instilled a feeling of worship and holiness.

This habit has increased since my visit to Rome a few years ago. The small churches, perfumed with incense, gave me a deep feeling of relief from the anxiety which periodically plagued me.

The small churches pleased me while cathedrals, with all their greatness and heavy decorations, alienated me and made me fearful.

The candles around the altar, that day, cast shadows on the walls and on the face of the priest leading the mass. The whole atmosphere was surreal and meaningful; while the words of the mass exuded the scent of holiness and revered saints, blended with the sad music conveying the Byzantine spirit — this spirit which mellowed in Hagia Sofia Church and was then infiltrated into the lanes, monasteries and churches of Jerusalem.

My response to the atmosphere transcended the limits of the place: it roamed through different places to return and settle happily in my soul, accompanied by sad rhythms of the organ. Meanwhile, the image of Christ carrying the cross persists in my memory and rests in the atmosphere of historic perfumes.

From here, he passed, from here he passed, here stood Veronica wiping his tired face with a piece of cloth, his sad face stamped on it. Afterwards the piece of cloth was taken to Italy, so Sister Rovaela said, and became a source of goodness and blessing for the believers. Thus time had created a long history of pain, starting from the day the Roman military corps passed through Wad street until the Italian

forces joined the multinational forces in West Beirut — long, long history.

I looked to the left to find her sitting near me, a black scarf covering her head. She was kneeling in great sublimity and humility. I did not see her face clearly, she was slim, neither tall nor short, or so she seemed to me when I glanced at her.

The mass ended. I left through the church door while she went with others to confession. I stood still for many moments without understanding why. When I took the first step, she was on the same step. She did not look at me, nor I at her, but we continued walking together until we reached the road leading to Wad street. Suddenly she turned and asked me: "Are you from Jerusalem?" I turned to her and said, "I am from this town."

Then she asked about the road leading to the holy mosque. When I learned that she was not from Jerusalem, I volunteered to accompany her there.

We spent a splendid day roaming the lanes and streets of Jerusalem. I asked her to have dinner with me. She agreed, but on condition that we eat in a restaurant in the Old City. She asked me to spend the whole day inside its walls, to visit its mosques and churches and to learn about everything. She was like a big child, almost flying with happiness while she walked, ate, touched walls, met and talked with people.

I asked her, "Why do you visit mosques and saints' tombs? Are you a Christian?" She did not reply but smiled gently, her eyes a sea of joy. "Who told you that I am a Christian?" she said. I waited for her to complete her answer, but she just continued smiling.

As the days passed, we met many times. She was from Acre. She had spent part of her life travelling abroad but had returned to settle here. She had not known Jerusalem before, but she said she used to long for it. She was not religious, but she prayed with humility in all the places of worship.

Once, she asked me why I always preferred to pass through Wad street and Via Dolorosa. I had no ready answer. I said to her, "I used to live here and got used to going along the same roads." She glanced at me and smiled that smile which transformed her eyes into a sea of joy. She said "Isn't it because both streets have the same meaning: Christ's journey and the Roman march?" I did not answer because I did not understand what she meant.

Our relationship had developed and we started to meet each other every day. Certain things we had in common grew and developed into interests. The interests to love.

I loved her, she loved me. She said once, "Let's live together." In amazement I answered, "We are not married!" She looked at me sadly and said "When do the wishes of the clergyman and the sheikh coincide?" I felt the tragedy and did not answer.

My meeting with her in the Church of Veronica meant more to me than just coincidence. I tried to interpret the incident in vain. I attempted to analyse her words without success. I asked her the secret of her prayers in the Church of Veronica; all she said was, "Because my name is Veronica." This answer irritated me. Her answer made me curious so I asked her whether she prayed for this reason. She laughed the laugh which changed her face into a mirror of love. She did not answer, but I did not mind.

I asked her again whether she knew anything about Saint Veronica. She said in innocence and honesty, "No, I don't."

This answer again irritated me and increased my perplexity. I asked Sister Rovaela to help me out of this confusion. Instead of answering me, she told me in tears that her nun sister who died in Warsaw had all the marks of a saint. She said softly, her eyes full of tears, that she dreamed that the church would beautify her sister who died in the Itatub Monastery, a saint. I asked her again impatiently about the origins of Saint Veronica but she answered, not noticing my impatience, that the Polish pope was born in Krakaw.



The truth seemed to elude me and Veronica's repeated answers only increased my perplexity. She told me that her mother shakes the willow tree behind their house in the village whenever the moon is full, and that the voice of her brother who lives in Ain al-Hilweh camp reaches her, talks to her, and reassures her that she talks to him and reassures him.

However, I was happy with my relationship with Veronica, in spite of the distress I felt whenever I thought about it or tried to rationalise the coincidence which had brought us together. I tried to create a relationship based on this vision, but the outcome was unlike reality. There was a clear discrepancy which could not be ignored. I attempted to attribute the coincidence to invisible forces, but I was not satisfied. I vented my distress in external events, responding and being influenced by them. Veronica did not oppose my anxiety but never encouraged it. She used to say that our meeting was an integral part of the truth and we had to strengthen our relationship with confidence to complete the truth.

This story will be continued next week.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

هجوم مسلح على جامعة الخا
يتر في الضفة ٣ مواطنين - قدم
مقتل ثلاثة طلاب وجرح العشرات
عوة مجلس الأمن في نابلس - مقتل قاتل وقطع
بان على جانبي «الخط الأخضر» على أثر
ثلاثة طلاب وجرح ٣٣ طالبا في الخا
من الاذاعات ومراسلتها - وقت
دلت ويمكن ان يحدث في ط
ت. ظهر أمس. ما. في ط

The Palestinian papers in the occupied territories were busy during the past week describing the deteriorating situation in the city of Hebron, when a number of masked gunmen entered the campus of the local university shooting indiscriminately.

Papers all led banner headlines on July 27 detailing the killing of three students and the wounding of dozens of others. All three dailies were able to get hold of photos of some of the injured students at the Hebron University and used them on their front pages.

torials censored from
the Arabic press this week:

Al Quds..... 3
Al Fajr..... 3
Al Shaab..... 1

Israeli Deployment

The decision to redeploy is a clever plot thought up by the Israeli government to apply direct pressure on the Syrians and Palestinians. It also aims to fool Arab and Israeli public opinion with the knowledge and tacit support of the Reagan administration.

This is no pullback, in reality. Invading Israeli forces suffered a political (and perhaps military) defeat in Lebanon and have no alternative but to retreat.

Yet, the answer is crystal clear: Israel should try to find an equitable, comprehensive solution, in accordance with the recommendations of the UN, and with the participation of the Soviet Union - the latter would mean putting an end to US 'trusteeship' for the region. But Israel is sidestepping this way out. And it is quite likely that soon it may be afflicted, once again, with 'aggressive military madness' and engage in another misadventure.

Israel wants to saddle the Syrians and Palestinians with the blame for what will happen in Lebanon, knowing very well it is exacerbating the situation. The redeployment move is a threat, and not a solution, as the Begin government claims, extricating Israeli troops from the Lebanese morass and the country from its economic woes. If a solution is to be found, then Israel does not have too far to look; the Lebanese people themselves hold the key to the riddle. And both Israel and the US know it.

AL ITTIHAD
July 21

Gemayel in US arms

During a banquet in honour of the US foreign relations committee, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said his trust in the US administration with regard to the withdrawal of all foreign

forces from Lebanon is being put to the test.

He sincerely believes that at the termination of this 'period of testing' he will be able to find out if the US is worthy of being invested with his trust or not, and whether US credibility is still as good as ever.

But Gemayel actually seems to be looking for justification for having been sucked into the US imperialist morass: how many others before him have put the US to the test and found, to their sorrow, that they have only succeeded in getting mired, up to their necks, in the same muck?

Gemayel has, unfortunately, paid no heed to the experience of other Arab leaders who have trodden that same path before. He has to find out the truth for himself.

He could have saved himself a lot of bother and headache had he looked closer to home, in the eyes of the little children of Lebanon who have been made innocent victims of the policy of his US hosts. He chose the contrary course, to bask in the glow of the US embrace in a vain quest for peace and tranquility.

AL FAJR
July 22

In Memory of a Great Revolution

Today marks the 31st anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, spearheaded by the late Gamal Abd al-Nasser - a brilliant page in the often muddled and besmirched annals of the Arab nation.

The revolution inaugurated a new era in Arab history, precipitating far reaching, fundamental changes in the region and the world, including the toppling of several Arab regimes.

Abd al-Nasser's slogan was 'Down with Imperialism,' but we

are now living in an age when Arab regimes are falling over themselves in renewing their pledges of allegiance to imperialism, personified by the US, and exacerbating the suppression of their peoples, in a bid to perpetuate their rule.

But refreshing breezes are now finally being created on Egyptian soil by national opposition forces which are day by day inflicting defeat upon the Sadat heirs who lose ground, those heirs who are still bent on ruining the economic, political and social fabric of Egypt.

We are also passing through a time which has witnessed the moral bankruptcy of Arab regimes which on the outside may appear to be strong and powerful, but reek of rot inside.

The Egyptian uprising was a milestone in our history, and the tremors it created are still being felt in our day. And now comes the Lebanese war to erect a new milestone presaging a new direction for the Arab nation which could prove to be of still greater significance.

AL SHA'AB
July 23

The Mass Graves

No one in this wide world, and certainly no peace-loving Jew or Arab, can be satisfied with the official versions explaining the existence of a mass grave housing the bones of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese dead.

It is not merely a question of neglect but of the need behind the creation of such a cemetery.

Whose bones are these, buried beneath the earth? Are there, among them, any women or children? How many are the dead? What are their names and identities? How and where did they die? Does this mass grave

differ in any way from the shallow cemetery where the martyrs of Sabra and Shatila were buried?

But what worries us most is this: what is to stop the grave diggers from preparing more graves for still more Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese dead?

Haaretz recently quoted the Israeli military spokesman as saying there are other graves in the area but there was no way the dead could be identified because of the manner of their death.

Does this mean there are more mass graves? What does the spokesman mean when he claims the dead cannot be identified? Isn't this just like the lame excuse put forward by the Argentinian regime to explain away its mass graves?

Meanwhile, we hear of the death of another inmate at the Ansar prison camp. How did he die? Where is he going to be buried?

The people of Lebanon have become the latest victims of genocide, but desperate attempts are being made to conceal this crime. In the meantime, in honour of those martyrs who perished and in order to keep their memory alive, and until the perpetrators of this crime are brought to justice, it is suggested that the site become a place of pilgrimage - for both Arabs and Jews alike - so that the world might bear witness to the desire and determination of two peoples to put an end to such criminal acts and prevent their recurrence.

AL ITTIHAD
July 24

On-going war

Israeli Premier Menachem Begin delighted in picturing the Lebanese war as a push-over enabling the Israel army to wipe out the PLO and deal a death

blow to Lebanese nationalist movements within a matter of days.

But that was an idle boast: the PLO was not wiped out, and the nationalist movements in Lebanon are still going strong. And the war is still on.

The National Salvation Front is the latest embodiment of Lebanese national feelings, and reflects the deepset Lebanese opposition to the Israel-Lebanon peace accord.

At the same time, the PLO is still entrenched in Lebanon, providing irrefutable testimony to the fact that it is the lynchpin in any peace negotiations in the area.

Every political or diplomatic move in the region must necessarily take the PLO into consideration, if it is to succeed.

On the other hand, the once-optimistic Israeli government is facing a profound crisis in its conduct of the on-going war. In the past, it had relied heavily on the Phalangists and the quasi-legitimate status of the Gemayel clan in East Beirut to bolster it. But the emergence of the Salvation Front has inaugurated a new era in Lebanon, representing as it does all elements and variations of nationalist Lebanese institutions.

The Salvation Front has presented the Begin government with a new tailor-made crisis, and the US with food for serious thought.

If Israel and the US sincerely believe that by keeping constantly in touch they can resolve their crises, they have another thing coming. And their insistence on their strategy of aggression and dictation of policy can only lead to a wider war in the region.

AL FAJR
July 26



Volunteer workers helping to refurbish the city of Jaffa. TS

Anti-Sandinists Get Lebanon Arms Booty

Haaretz reported that Israel has agreed to supply the US-backed rebels opposing the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua with arms seized from Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Haaretz added that the *New York Times*, which first reported on this subject, indicated that Israel is supplying the arms at US request. Accordingly, arms shipments were recently sent via Honduras which has strong relations with Israel.

The weapons include artillery, ammunition and hand grenades. "Lately, arms coordination has been growing between Israel and the United States," Haaretz quotes the *New York Times*.

The *New York Times* explained that since the US cannot supply all the aid it would like to "regimes and rebels in Central America and in Africa because of opposition from Congress," Israel serves as a conduit for aid. "Through this it infiltrates into these areas and has considerable financial benefits." The paper remarked that State Department officials did not deny the possibility that payment for the Israeli arms is made indirectly through US economic aid.

The *New York Times* revealed that the Honduran army's commander made a secret visit earlier this year to a CIA training

base in Virginia and that he examined varieties of Israeli-seized weapons. The State Department spokesman refrained from affirming or denying this. The Israeli embassy also refused to respond.

The *New York Times* reported, based on a secret official document, that the Palestinian equipment which was seized by the Israelis includes: 290 Soviet-made tanks, 216 armoured vehicles, 215 artillery pieces, 10,000 mortar shells, 40,000 rocket shells, 5700 katyushas, 11,610 mines, 18,950 grenades, 6000 tons of ammunition and 211,000 rifles.

UK CONSERVATIVES TOUR AS FRIENDS

A delegation of British Conservative Party youth activists visited the West Bank, July 21-24, as part of a Middle East tour which has so far included Tunisia, Syria and Jordan.

The delegation of four party activists was led by 27-year-old Pal Foster, who was the initiator for last year's meetings between exiled Hahul Mayor Mohammed Milhem and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The young British politicians visited the Palestinian refugee camps of Dheisheh, Arroub, Jalazon and Kalandia and met with members of the Dheisheh youth club, which has been closed

for 17 months. They also visited the city of Hebron and witnessed the settler-ruled vegetable market and the sites of Jewish settlement in the city centre. Dismissed Acting-Mayor Mustafa Natshe gave the visiting group a detailed explanation of the situation in Hebron.

The British delegation is hoping to be able to set up a 'Friends of Palestine' or 'Friends of the Middle East' group in the Conservative Party as a means to counter the powerful 'Friends of Israel' group. They concluded their West Bank trip with a meeting with fired Nablus Mayor Bassam Shakra'a and a visit to Bir Zeit University.

The Conservative delegation met PLO leaders in Tunis, including PLO Executive Committee member, Farouk Kaddoumi. In Amman they met with exiled West Bank Mayors Qawasmeh, Milhem and Abd al-Jawad Saleh.

The young Conservative delegation used a video camera to record their meetings and the physical conditions in the Palestinian camps, especially the cementing shut of the main entrances by the occupation authorities. They plan to make video copies and distribute them to Conservative Party branches.

"Let's go to drink *Lehayim!*" (Good health - in Hebrew) said Yusef, turning to the nearby house of the businessman. He drank and was shining. But there was a lot to wonder about the character of this chap. His cousins were in custody, and if their relevance to the deed should be disclosed, and it was sure it would, then he would be searched. But because he was a well known friend of the Jews he just sat and trusted his friends and his future. However, he had nothing to be trusting about.

Yusef's ideas about the war against the British did not excite the central committee. They were frightened of training Arabs and giving them weapons, in case they afterwards fought the Jews. It was a tough argument, lacking political logic and contradicting the principles of Yair (Stern), who stated at the time of the split from (Menachem Begin's) Etzel in 1940 that the British were the enemy, not the Arabs. Though it was clear that Abu Ghosh did not yet represent any sort of body among the Arab populace, on the other hand the Arab's admiration of the anti-British actions of the underground was well known - in spite of the fact that they became occasional victims of this war, such as at the King David Hotel or the attacks on trains, etc. They overcame those in silence.

It was clear then that in their own view the war was against the common enemy and therefore Abu Ghosh had a chance, or at least that the matter bore in itself much political and propaganda value even in case it would not succeed.

On the morrow, the Jewish businessman was arrested in his house for being a well known friend of the Abu Ghosh people and the police were look-

ing for Yusef. He was sent to Tel Aviv and by himself contacted a Jewish 'friend,' who ended the affair by giving him up to the intelligence.

The businessman was seen a few months after the case, limping, with a thinned face, one of his eyes wounded and half-closed. He was sitting in the Jerusalem prison and beside his cell was the cell of the cousins. He saw them more than once, being returned wounded and bleeding, listened to their weeping and crying during the nights. Still, they did not disclose anything. (If they had spoken, he would not have been released.) He himself was interrogated at length, beaten several times and put into solitary, but as he was a practical person and as he withstood their maltreatment, he also succeeded in convincing them of his innocence and even became a friend who gave the guards photographic pictures that were supplied to him by his friends.

Abu Ghosh was released from custody by the British close to the establishment of the state (Israel) but was arrested again by the messengers of David Ben Gurion (the Haganah), who put him in custody together with local and neighbouring countries' POW's - 'enemies of the state.' His two-storey house in Abu Ghosh village, on the road to Jerusalem, he granted to the IDF for use until the end of the war, but after the war his right to it was confiscated according to the logic of certain Jews. His wife and children were expelled to Trans-Jordan and only after many endeavors did he succeed in getting them back, after he demonstrated his embitteredness by shooting into his leg near the police station, his house, and was arrested again for holding illegal arms.

continued from page 10

Abu Ghosh

and hugs and was almost in tears. It was made clear by him that his cousins were arrested.

How, for heaven's sake, were they arrested, given that they all had had a good chance to get away if they only were precise? "It's not important," said Abu Ghosh. "The main thing is that she escaped." And again he was overcome with rejoicing and excitement.

After he calmed down, he told exactly what had happened. Everything had been going according to the clock. They had had only one sin - over-devotedness. Those cousins argued as agreed, but had noticed that the quarrel of the simple villagers did not interest in the slightest the representative of His Majesty, who was totally cold. Therefore they started to 'speak with hands.' Slaps hit faces, fists were flying in all directions, but they were not satisfied and they hit once, 'by mistake,' the face of the Briton, just to be sure. Of course, at this moment the prestige of the Empire was offended. The time was already long after 2:07 and they could not get away, and the rest was easily guessed.

When a reasonable amount of time had passed and the detainee had not come out of the bathroom, the prison guard's patience ended, she opened the door and found nobody there but the hospital robe on the floor. Of course she started to shout, as her livelihood had been endangered. The two had been arrested in the meantime until their affair could be cleared.

AL FAJR SUPPLEMENT

Al Fajr Jerusalem Palestinian weekly publishes a daily supplement of English translations of selected local news items published in the four Arabic dailies: Al Fajr, Al Shaab, Al Ittihad, and Al Quds. The translations, which will be of the same day's newspapers, will also include abridged versions of the editorials appearing in the four dailies. This news service by the Al Fajr (English) staff will reflect the same high standards of accuracy and quality of English translations as Al Fajr weekly.

The supplement - under the heading 'The Jerusalem Dawn' - will be hand delivered daily, by lunch time, except on Sundays, to subscribers at the address they prefer.

A service charge of US \$50 per month is requested for the subscription.

Cheques may be sent to Al Fajr newspaper, P.O. Box 19315, Jerusalem. For additional information, please ask at Al Fajr (English) offices, 2 Hatem Ta'ee Street, Jerusalem. Telephone: 281-035.

Afterwards, because of all his problems, he became quite confused, and he is still living in his village, powerless.

Unbelievably, this was the end of the affair.

continued from page 7

Natshe

officials? The violation stated in the general's letter relates to a period of over one year. Why is it necessary to wait until Aharon Gross' murder to discover corruption in the municipality, and how is it possible to connect the municipal activity to the murder, even if these activities were illegal?

But when the dead body is in front of the general, and when the defence minister is labelled a 'murderer', and when, in front of the military administration building, a vigil of settlers has been held for the last three weeks, demanding the dismissal of Natshe and the reconstruction of the 'Jewish quarter', and when the army is accused of being impotent and neglecting security needs, it is therefore no wonder that a balanced person like Uri Orr finds himself under pressure to use trivial excuses in order to calm the furious settlers. In this way, the settlers get all their demands met and dictate to the authorities in charge of the area all their desires. Today Natshe's dismissal, tomorrow the reconstruction of the 'Jewish quarter', and the day after tomorrow the expulsion of the 'disturbances'. The settlers have proven until now that their struggle does not tolerate any compromises and so far they have won the battle. The question is, does the government know how to manage an uncompromising struggle to keep its self-respect?

WEEKLY REVIEW



JERUSALEM, July 20 — An Israeli bulldozer, backed by a squad of border policemen, destroyed Abd al-Majid Hussein Darwish's house on the Mount of Olives without giving him or his nine dependents a chance to salvage any of the family's possessions. The two-room house was demolished on orders from the West Jerusalem municipality, which charged that Darwish had not obtained a building license. *JN*

July 20, 1983

AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY

JERUSALEM — Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, president of the Supreme Islamic Council, is demanding prompt action by the minister of police and the interior, Yusef Burg, to apprehend and punish the officers responsible for the recent violence in al-Aqsa Mosque.

WOMEN PRISONERS APPEAL

JERUSALEM — Palestinian women held in the Ramle Neve Tirtza prison issued a statement appealing to Fatah fighters in the Lebanese Beqaa to close ranks and "stand united in the face of enemy plots against the Palestinian people."

GRABBED

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government has notified the West Bank village of al-Mazra'a al-Qibliyyah that it intends to expropriate 3000 dunums of its land.

FALSE PROMISES

NABLUS — The student councils of leading West Bank institutes of higher learning declared a strike to protest against continued attempts to enforce compliance with the Jordanian 'comprehensive examination.' A special delegation is scheduled to leave for Amman next week to hold talks with Jordanian educational authorities for a way out of the current impasse.

HOUSE RAIDED

JENIN — Israeli military authorities conducted a thorough search of Samih Abu Bakr's house in the village of Ya'abad, in the Jenin area, but without providing any explanation to the puzzled home-owner. Abu Bakr was also ordered to report to police headquarters the next day.

EASIER IDS

JENIN — The military authorities have cancelled some standing regulations concerning the issuing of identification cards to West Bankers. Applicants, who were formerly required to secure a signature or seal from a municipal official or a 'liaison' (Village League) office, are now allowed to submit their requests directly to the issuing authorities.

SOLDIER ATTACKS LAWYER

RAMALLAH — Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer charged a soldier had assaulted and insulted her when she paid a recent visit to the home of ousted Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'a. The assailant also tried to choke her driver, but was prevented from doing so by his colleagues.

15 ARRESTED

JENIN — The military authorities arrested 15 Arab students from the village of Silat al-Harhih, near Jenin, on charges of having cut down trees belonging to an Israeli settlement.

QUARRY

BETHLEHEM — The Israeli authorities demolished the quarry of Ali Mohammad Khalil Hussein and Company, near Bethlehem. The company obtained a permit to operate it seven years ago. The military authorities now say it is too near the main road.

July 21, 1983

STUDENTS BANNED

NABLUS — A large number of West Bank students who have finished their secondary education here are being prevented from leaving to take up university places abroad because of Jordanian government bridge travel restrictions.

The students are required to go to Amman in order to handle the formalities, but the majority of them are not eligible for entry into Jordan because they are below the established age.

DENTISTS RAIDED

JENIN — Israeli customs officials have raided nearly all the dental clinics in the West Bank town of Jenin in the past few days.

Five dentists: Riad Jaradat, Azmi Bamouni, Abd al-Latif Masri, Adeb Khalid and Karam Baydas were handed tax demands

for bills ranging from IS200,000 to 500,000, covering the past 16 months.

SCORCHED EARTH

NABLUS — Settlers set fire to agricultural lands, belonging to the West Bank village of Beit Lid, in the Nablus region. Land owners claim nearly 200 dunums of fruit groves were devastated by the fire.

They said a similar incident last May destroyed some 1000 dunums of village land.

POISONED COLA

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Health Ministry confiscated nearly 100,000 bottles of soft drinks manufactured by Israeli firms, who had violated health regulations. The Ministry said the firms had been using chemical colorings that had been specifically banned for human consumption.

SETTLERS HOUSING

JERUSALEM — More than 20 percent of all the housing units built by the Israeli Ministry of Housing and Construction in 1982 were in settlements in the West Bank. According to an internal memo, the Ministry built 1313 settler houses in the West Bank last year.

Another 2119 houses were put up in Jerusalem. In Haifa there were 721, and 368 in the rest of the Galilee.

TAXED TOO HIGH

HEBRON — Property owners in the Hebron area town of Yatta have lodged complaints against unfair tax assessments sent to them by the military government finance department in Hebron. The tax bills were mailed two weeks ago and residents were given until August 10 to contest them.

NEW NAJAH BOARD

NABLUS — The newly constituted Board of Trustees of Najah University will include two former West Bank mayors, Mustafa Natshe of Hebron, and Wahid Hamdallah, of Anabta. Hikmat Masri was elected president.

July 22, 1983

JALAZON SEALED

NABLUS — Israeli military authorities sealed three points of entry linking the Jalazon refugee camp with the main Jerusalem-Nablus highway.

The authorities said this was a preemptive measure, aimed at preventing camp residents from reaching the main street and throwing stones at passing Israeli vehicles.

FOR TOURISTS

GAZA — Gaza is embarking on

an ambitious IS30,000,000 project that will transform its beachfront into a tourist centre. The municipality is putting the finishing touches to the blueprint which envisages the creation of a beachfront sidewalk.

NEW SCHOOL

JERUSALEM — The newly established Greek Orthodox school of Mar Mitri in the Old City of Jerusalem has begun registering boy and girl students for the coming scholastic year.

HADDAD'S MEN LEARN HEBREW

JERUSALEM — Several officers and men from Major Sa'ad Haddad's militias are now studying Hebrew at a language centre in Haifa. Some of Haddad's men have already finished an intensive one-month course in Hebrew.

SOLIDARITY

HEBRON — A high-ranking delegation of Jerusalem dignitaries paid a courtesy call on Hebron's ousted acting-Mayor Mustafa Natshe, to express their solidarity with the people of the city. The delegation was led by Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, head of the Supreme Islamic Council.

3 ARRESTED FOR STABBING

JERUSALEM — Three Palestinian youths have been arrested on suspicion of having participated in the fatal stabbing of an Israeli settler, Aharon Gross, in Hebron, three weeks ago.

Two of the youths, none of whom have been identified, are residents of Hebron. The third is from Beit Jala.

July 23, 1983

BUSY SIGNALS

RAMALLAH — Israeli authorities have withdrawn one of the two telephone numbers serving the town of Bir Zeit.

STRIKE

NAZARETH — Over 800 political prisoners held in the Jenin prison went on a hunger strike to protest maltreatment by wardens. The prisoners accuse the authorities of brutality and inhumane treatment. They have now been prevented from leaving their cells.

The strike was sparked when guards used tear gas last week to disperse prisoners who had ganged up on a man suspected of being an informer. (Six of the prisoners suffered severe burns as a result). The guards subsequently placed the alleged ringleaders in solitary confinement.

REINSTATEMENT

NABLUS — The Supreme Court of Israel has issued a judgement calling for the reinstatement of several West Bank teachers and educators who had been pensioned off before reaching retirement age.

VILLAGE ASSAULTED

NAZARETH — Unidentified assailants armed with automatic weapons raided the village of Mu'awiya, in the Northern Triangle, two nights ago and sprayed several houses with bullets. Residents said the homes of four villagers, Mohammed Yusef Mufaddi, Jamal Yusef Mufaddi, Qasem Mahmoud Bahiye and Taher Yusef Mufaddi Mohammed were extensively damaged. The raiders shattered windows and shot up the facade of the houses. Stray bullets severed electric wires and plunged the village into darkness.

Residents said this was merely the latest event in a campaign of intimidation against them and are wondering at the inability of the police to solve the case.

LAWYER IMPRISONED

JENIN — The Israeli military authorities arrested lawyer Jalal Boulos Suleiman Khader, on unspecified charges. Khader is a resident of the West Bank village of Az Ababdeh, near Jenin.

NO QUESTIONS

JERUSALEM — Knesset member Meir Zevin asked the legal advisor of the Israeli government to participate in the investigations into the burning of the Hebron qasbah (market place).

Zevin said several soldiers and reservists testified that they had witnessed the incident. However, the military authorities have not interrogated the suspects.

YOUTH

BETHLEHEM — Residents of the Palestinian refugee camp of al-'Azza have been pressing UNRWA to set up a youth centre in the camp. They note that there is one of the few camps in the West Bank that does not have this facility.

July 24, 1983

FORCED MOVE

HEBRON — The owners of Hebron's bus companies, who were ordered to move their terminal to another location, near the Ibrahim Mosque, are categorically refusing. The present location will remain under the control of the military authorities. Israeli settlers claim that the Israeli government has pledged to hand the area over to them.

PUSH WEST

GAZA — According to the Gaza regional settlement office, it has been decided to earmark special funds to help in the development of new sites in the Strip to absorb non-religious settlers.

The new settlements will boast industrial parks, tourist attractions and agricultural lands.

JAFFA ARSON

JAFFA — Flames raged uncontrolled in a textile factory in Jaffa late last week, forcing police to evacuate nearby residences. Reports said firemen had a difficult time bringing the fire under control in the factory which produces cotton garments. Another fire, the same day, gutted a small church on Ben Zvi street, in Jaffa.

SUBSIDISED ROADS

JENIN — The Catholic Relief Agency is participating in a development project in the village of Burkin, in the Jenin district.

The Agency is paying 70 percent of the bill for laying down and paving a 3 km road that will serve the residents of Burkin and Qabatiya.

'JIM CROW' IN EILAT

JERUSALEM — West Bank Arabs employed by Jewish concerns in Eilat are forbidden to walk in the streets of the resort town without a special police permit. Union leader Jamal Musa claimed the regulation applies to the movements of workers during the noon and evening hours. He charged Eilat police are conducting a campaign of harassment against Arab workers.

He listed a detailed catalogue of incidents during which Arab workers were singled out for harsh treatment: the arrest of 49 Arab workers on their way back to work after the *Id al-Fitr* festivities, the poisoning of workers at the Akim Bros. plant, refusal of some companies to grant their workers their legitimate rights, the firing of three Arabs employed by the Astoria hotel because they stood up to racist slurs against them.

Musa asked the Building and Construction Workers Union to safeguard the interests of its members, and urged the Histadrut's Executive Committee to launch an investigation into charges of discrimination against Arabs.

KIDS STAND UP

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem police allegedly stopped a bus full of youths from the Galilee town of Shafa'Amr, on an outing to Jerusalem, and beat up several of the passengers.

Twelve-year-old Khaled Khalaf claimed police assaulted him because he was sporting a T-shirt bearing the logo: 'I love you, Palestine', and later took him to the Moscoviyya detention centre, after beating him up.

The passengers were frisked by border guards, but when one of them complained, the Israelis set upon him and threw him out of the bus, after brutally assaulting him. Passengers claimed the guards had threatened to kill them all.

Khalaf was held in the compound for an hour, during which he was beaten again. He said guards tore off his T-shirt and trampled it underfoot.

But the youths ran to a shop, ordered T-shirts bearing the same Palestine logo. Police ordered them to leave town.

PRISON FOR AQSA WORSHIPPER

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem Appeals Court sentenced Mohammed Abu Khader, a Jerusalem resident, to one-and-a-half months in prison and three-months suspended for having participated in the massive demonstration at the Asqa mosque on the last Friday of Ramadan. He was one of 46 West Bank Arabs arrested during the demonstration.



Inrissar Amin Abed Mehessen, 16, was released this week from Sha'ar Tzedek Hospital, after remaining there for 50 days. Mehessen was shot in the stomach by Israeli soldiers during a demonstration near her home in Dheisheh camp, JN.

VOLUNTARY WORK COMMITTEE UNDER THREAT

Israeli military authorities summoned members of the voluntary work committee in Shate' camp, Gaza Strip, and questioned them about recent clean up work carried out in the camp. Members of the committee said that the recent increase in harassment measures against them indicates that military authorities plan to dissolve it.

July 25, 1983

SENTENCE STAYS

RAMALLAH — Military court in Ramallah rejected the appeal of Ahmad Mahmoud Namoura for a reduction of his four-year sentence. Namoura, 21, from Dura, was arrested 40 months ago on charges of membership and transferring weapons.

CONFESSED VANDAL

RAMALLAH — Israeli settler, Uri Elitzur, who confessed he had taken part in the Ramallah 'Kristallnacht', which resulted in the shattering of the windows of 40 Arab cars, has not been interrogated by the Israeli police. Elitzur admitted his part in an interview with *Haaretz*, which notified the government's legal consultant one month ago.

FREIJ AND ELIEZER

BETHLEHEM — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij met with Brig General Binyamin Ben Eliezer, the Israeli co-ordinator of military activities in the West Bank, to discuss the current situation in the territories.

SETTLERS COMMUTER TRAIN

NABLUS — Israeli transport minister Haim Corfu is studying plans to lay railway tracks linking several Jewish settlements on the foothills of Nablus with the coastal plain.

The train is expected to reduce travelling time to and from Petah Tikva and the Emmanuel settlement to about 10 minutes. The distance between Petah Tikva and the Ariel settlement will be covered in about 12 minutes.

children's activities and includes books, texts on child education and children's arts and crafts.

July 26, 1983

ON THEIR OWN

HEBRON — In a midnight operation, Kiryat Arba settlers demolished a three-room house under construction in War Shayeb, in the Hebron area, claiming the owner of the house did not have a licence for constructing his home.

Abd al-Hafez Ibrahim Jabari, a driver in Hebron, told Al Fajr that he went to the site of his house in the morning and discovered the rubble of his house. Jabari told Al Fajr that he had obtained a licence from the municipality of Hebron one year ago.

ARMY SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM — The settler branch of the Israeli army, Nahal, said it intends to build nine new settlements along the Hebron-Beer Sheva highway and the Ramallah-Nablus road, it was announced.

Other locations being considered are to the south of Jenin, west of Ramallah, and northeast of Hebron.

ISRAELIS BANNED

JERUSALEM — Israel's Citizens Rights Committee has lodged a protest with Prime Minister Menachem Begin, against the government's ban on Israeli demonstrations in the West Bank. The committee said in its cabled protest that the ban infringes freedom of opinion. The committee says demonstrators have the right to choose the time and place where they want to stage their protest.

WATERLESS

JERUSALEM — Residents of the Palestinian refugee camp at Shu'afat, in Jerusalem, have been short of water for three weeks now.

MEATLESS

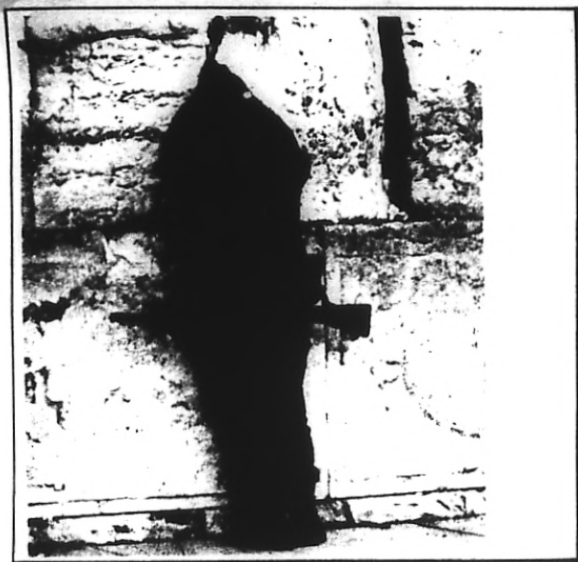
JERUSALEM — The Israeli military authorities have banned the sale of meat in South Lebanon.

According to usually reliable reports, Israel will not allow any trucks loaded with meat or meat products from Beirut to enter South Lebanon.

WOMEN'S UNION

GAZA — Members of the first founding Conference of the National Union of Palestinian Women held a meeting attended by delegations from several Gaza Strip villages and refugee camps.

The meeting ratified the draft constitution of the union following a detailed discussion. A seven member Executive Committee has been elected.



But Father, Arafat is not Hitler...

by Levi Morav

Al Hamishmar 27.5.83

I'm writing you this letter in order to try and clarify something that won't give me rest. Something that stands between us. I can remember the bitter arguments and the painful talks we've had since 1967. Some things have changed in the meantime. Once I thought that the visit of the Egyptian president to Jerusalem could change your mind. I believed that after seeing and hearing about what happened during the total war Israel led in Lebanon, the picture would clarify and a solution be found. Gradually, and under protest, I am beginning to accept the idea that there is nothing that can change your mind and the minds of those who think like you.

I can clearly remember Tut, our commander, at the top of Israel's Mt. Hermon at the end of the 1973 war, taking off his red shoes, peeling off his stinking socks and washing his feet in shaving water he received in a parcel from children from Ramat Gan. "Come and sit down with me," he invited me. "Well, what do you say? So now they won't have a choice but to understand that they must give up territory in return for peace — that there is no military solution to our problem," I said. He looked at me and said, in a very tired voice, "It won't change a thing. The war has proved to everyone that they were right."

And he was right. It seems that nothing proves anything. To no one. I can remember my bitter attempts to tell you how strong we are. How well trained. How great our army is. That no Arab has a chance against us. I remember the pride in your eyes — here was your son, a proud Jewish soldier who can fight back, the realised dream of hundreds of years of persecuted, burnt, massacred, raped, deported Jews who longed to rise, to learn the arts of war and fight back.

Do you remember the talks on the eve of the 1967 war? You panicked like many others. You were frightened by the pictures of Egyptian and Syrian commando soldiers tearing snakes with their hands and jumping over fire. I told you then again and again: "Father, don't worry. They don't have a chance."

We marched for dozens of kilometres, we parachuted into dark nights carrying on our backs 80 kilogrammes of equipment, etc. And others did even more. The stories I read as a child about the Marines fighters seem like stories for underdeveloped children. We put into training far more efforts. "Hard training, easy war," was the slogan. And when it happened, I saw how the spring that had been coiled for years gave the death blow to the enemy. You believed then that we had solved the problem. You kept on saying, "They only understand the language of power," but this is not true. If they would have "understood" that, they would have made peace at once, peace out of defeat. Even if we hit them again and again, we won't be able to force them to make peace with us.

On the contrary. Like steel that gets stronger with beating, so are they getting stronger. Each war is more difficult. Lycurgus, the Spartan leader, ordered the Spartans not to fight the same enemy more than once, lest he learn to fight back. This is exactly what happened then to the Spartans, who fought against Thebes many times until they lost. It might happen to us. In 1967 we "loured" the Golan Heights. Resistance was local and unorganised. The Syrians had run away.

In the war against the Palestinians in the Jordan valley during the years 1968-72 it became more and more difficult. They penetrated, we chased them, we found them, we killed them. But it became more difficult every time. And they kept on coming. Many of them were killed and they kept on coming. In the morning we would find tracks and mines. And when we were not alert, we paid dearly for it.

And then the 1973 war broke out. And once again, we were on the Golan Heights. This time it was no picnic. On the way — in Afula and Tiberias — our people threw sweets at us and called to us to finish them off, once and for all. But this time it was different — we actually saw our tanks on fire. And they did not run away. They fought well. And I saw fear in the eyes of my friends as we climbed up Hermon at the end of the war. And I saw Golan soldiers lying on the rocks with bullets in their chests — and they were so painfully young.

And then the war of attrition with the Syrians, and my friends who lived through two wars — and what was in between began falling dead.

And in this filthy unnecessary war in Lebanon, we saw that the Palestinians are not human dust. That they have self-respect. That hate and despair find their way to become an organised political and military system. They know how to fight and they mainly want to fight. We saw no more shoes thrown over the battlefield.

Father, I know that your fear stems from deep roots. I can understand it with my mind, but I can't feel it. I know that your fear is almost genetic, that it passes from one generation to the next. From one pogrom to another, from Khelmitski, in 1648, to Petliura, in 1920, from Pilsutski to Hitler. I know that no one was left from your family. I know that you yourself were rescued by a miracle and lived with this knowledge to your last day. I feel, sometimes, such rage and helplessness that I have the desire to turn the wheels of history back, so that we, the well trained and well armed, could defend our grandparents. But personally I have never been persecuted myself. I grew up in Jaffa among Arabs and Jews from Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary, Poland and Germany and was not persecuted. We were always the majority. The Arab children tried to live in peace with us. Children's fights were not based on any nationalistic background. No one ever called me a "stinking Jew". At the most I was called 'vusvuz' (nickname for Ashkenazi Jew) and I don't remember this being so terrible, and it was all in the family. And, then in the army I had this feeling of strength and the knowledge that if we shall have to we shall know how to implement this force well and fast. And then the roles changed.

I, your son, I go out in the middle of the night to accompany the Shin Beth men, who enter a poor hut in a dirty, neglected, stinking refugee camp in Gaza and our security man drag out the old man, who could have been you and hits him on the face and asks, "Where is your son?" (apparently the son had escaped to Jordan and joined one of the Palestinian organisations). And the security man beats the old man who is bleeding, who kneels and weeps like a wounded dog.

And I feel helpless rage and my finger trembles on the gun. And I think about you and I go crazy with the thought that someone could have done this to you. And there were other stories. I told you only some of them. About the regular army parachutes with their bloodstained clubs — about the joy they showed, and other things I cannot write about. And you didn't understand, in spite of the fact that you believed me. To you they remain pogroms, who want to harm us. You didn't understand that history has made a joke and the grandson of your father, who was persecuted and beaten for being a Jew, is doing similar things to Palestinians in the land of Israel. That we shoot at Arabs who live in this country, take their land and homes from them. We take away their means of livelihood. We damage their property and self-respect. We humiliate them, we treat them as sub-humans.

Not all do this, true, not everyone. Not even the majority, not yet. But a growing minority. A minority that would not dare speak 16 years ago and today is loud and taking over.

No, we are not Nazis; in spite of the fact that in Lebanon we used the methods of 'total war'. We bombed, indiscriminately, civilian homes. We hit defenceless civilians and invented the 'brought-ins', 'the detained', a disgusting

fascist verbal creation. No, we are not yet an apartheid state, like South Africa. But we have taken some large steps in that direction.

We have turned the Palestinians into wood cutters and water drawers. They perform all the dirty jobs for us: washing dishes, collecting garbage, construction work, agricultural work. We took the TNT of the national problem and are now mixing it with the dynamite of the class problem. And if the madmen of the Temple Mount shall have their way, all this shall combine with the explosives of the religious problem, and then God save us from the explosion and its results.

I know that you always believed and feared that they might succeed to destroy us, to expel us from here. You told me that in 1948, while waiting in Germany for a visa for the USA, you decided to go to Palestine because you were fed up with rule of the Gentiles. There is no more Gentile rule here. Only we and the Palestinians. They are below and we are above. We rule over them. They are the weak and we are the strong, very strong.

They fight with their teeth, with terror and bombs that hit both a soldier and a child. And we, so totally well armed, reply with vacuum bombs, napalm and by wiping houses off this earth. We are equipped with tanks, missiles and F-16s and can take care of all the Arab states but can't win over the Palestinians. Because they have no address. They have no state. They have no army. There is no one to be hit. And we are running around like a blind man, hitting in all directions.

We shoot at a rabbit with a cannon, and gradually the Jews who came here to live in peace are turning into persecutors. Like the Cosmacks we raid towns and destroy property and kill. Everything is the other way round, Father. And some of us like it. It does something to them. The perverted distortion of power and the capacity to kill without feeling a pang for it, drives them crazy, and so we can see religious Jews beating an old Arab woman who lives on her own in old Jerusalem and does not want to leave her home.

And we have even reached murder among ourselves. They murdered Emil Grunzweig (Peace Now demonstrator) and the murderer has not yet been found.

And this God in whom you believed, in spite of not being religious, the God in which your father so deeply believed: the God of Israel, the God of mercy, has forsaken us. He has been replaced by an old new revenge-seeking God, the God of the wars. And our God resembles us and there is nowhere to look.

Rest, Father, in your grave. I am not angry at you in spite of our differences of opinion. I know that you couldn't think differently. But in your honor, and more importantly — for the future of your grandson, who shall go into the army in seven years' time. I must try to stop the growing craze.

We must fight over the hearts of the people, their brains and awareness. We must drive away this evil spirit. We must fight the true defeatists who are afraid of peace and who prefer to live in war. And this is the most difficult battle of all because in it the sword is meaningless. If we don't win over ourselves and put down the sword in time, we are doomed. And history has showed it — the Temple was destroyed twice. True, 80% of the Jewish people shall continue to sell and buy and be born and die in Brooklyn and Queens, in London and Buenos Aires, but the political structure shall be destroyed for the third time and not because of our weakness but because of our strength.